



Florida Department of Education

May 2013

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It is hard to believe that another fantastic school year is coming to an end!

For those of you who will be attending the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Summer Institutes, you will gain knowledge of the CCSS and the shifts in instruction. Be sure to set up a time with your peers to share the enhanced learning opportunities and instructional delivery modes that you learn. This will lead to student success throughout the school! Also, our [CCSS resource page](#) is evolving quickly, so check in often for added updates and resources.

*Kelly Seay*

Educator Liaison

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## Teacher Treasures

### **May Giveaway**

Our May [Teacher Treasures](#) Giveaway will be one of our biggest giveaways yet. Twenty-five teachers will win **GradeCams**. That's right -- we will have 25 different winners this month. For more information on [GradeCam](#), please visit their website.

### **FLDOE Social Media**

Connect with the Florida Department of Education through new [social media](#) resources, including Pinterest, Flickr, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook.

### **BlueMan Group Promo**

As a way of saying, "Thanks for all you do!" Florida teachers can now enjoy Big Savings on [BLUE MAN GROUP Tickets](#) at Universal Studios!

### **Amazing 2013 Rates for Teachers and Educators at Preferred Hotel Group Member Hotels and Resorts!**

Preferred Hotel Group says "Thank You" to teachers and educators with 20% off best available rates and special VIP amenities such as daily breakfast for two, discounts on dining, spa treatments, valet parking, and more. Take a well-earned break and book a special teachers' and educators' rate today. These hotels are located around the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico.

[View all participating hotels and resorts.](#)

## Curriculum Corner

### **CPALMS**

[CPALMS](#) has developed many supportive resources that are available online to help Florida educators be successful with the new state content standards. Current CPALMS initiatives include lesson plan development, activities development, peer & subject area expert reviews, curriculum mapping, videos, and much more. In addition, the [iCPALMS](#) platform has 14 new web applications.

### **Florida Virtual Curriculum Marketplace**

Discovering and using digital educational resources that are engaging, effective, and appropriate for your students can be overwhelming. The Florida Virtual Curriculum Marketplace (FVCM) - a partnership between the Florida Department of Education and Learning.com - makes the experience easier. Learn all about the [FVCM through this eight part webinar](#).

## Education News

The **2013-2014 "blended" course descriptions** for mathematics aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), as well as Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for assessment purposes during this year of transition, are now available on [Florida's standards database](#) (CPALMS).

The **Mathematics Formative Assessment System (MFAS)** for K-3 Common Core State Standards contains a collection of formative assessment tasks and rubrics covering each of the Common Core State Mathematics Standards in grades K-3.

Please visit our **Curriculum Websites** for more subject related information:

[Career and Technical Education](#)

[English for Speakers of Other Languages](#)

[Healthy Schools](#)

[Humanities](#)

[Instructional Materials](#)

[Library Media Services and Instructional Technology](#)

[Reading](#)

[Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\)](#)

[World Languages](#)



[The Bureau of Educator Certification \(BEC\)](#) supports the academic achievement of our students by assuring that Florida educators are professionally qualified. The bureau is responsible for implementing the certification provisions in Florida statutes and State Board of Education administrative rules, including:

- Evaluating credentials and issuing certificates;
- Recommending appropriate professional standards for subject area specialization, assessment, and certificate renewal requirements;
- Providing certification information through extensive online resources, a toll-free information line with direct customer assistance, and an office visitor center;
- Supporting district certification officers with a partnership training program, newsletter, update presentations, a dedicated certification specialist, and technology systems and supports; and,
- Supporting college and university certification advisors with certification training and a dedicated certification specialist.

Florida certified educators are encouraged to “*Go Local.*” Educators employed in a Florida public school district, charter school, or lab school should first consult with their local human resources office for guidance on certification. On behalf of their employees, local school district certification partners are authorized by Florida law to perform the following certification tasks:

- [Renewals](#) – districts are required to renew professional certificates for their employees.
- [Additions](#) – districts may process certificate additions for many subject coverages or endorsements.
- [Reprints](#) – districts may process reissued certificates for a name change or to replace a lost or damaged certificate.

The BEC provides training for designees throughout Florida’s school systems to become certification partners. These partners are liaisons who provide local certification services and information for educators within their respective school districts, charter schools, lab schools, and even consortia, colleges of education, or private school organizations.

All Florida Educator Certificates expire on June 30 of the last year they are valid. If you are unsure of when your certificate expires or you need other information, simply log in to the secure [on-line application and status site](#). You may use this site to:

- Access current information about your Florida certification record.
- Submit your On-line Application for Certification in Florida.
- Update your mailing address in your Florida certification record.
- Make payment for any unpaid fee balance using your major credit card.

The [educator certification lookup](#) provides a tool to serve parents and the general public who need or want to know the certificate status of any Florida educator. This public access site

allows anyone to search by name for a Florida certified educator to see what certificate coverages and endorsements the educator currently holds. Links are provided from this site to explore [certification statistics](#) for statistical counts of certifications and to investigate any [disciplinary actions](#) taken against a certified educator's certificate.

For those seeking initial certification as an educator in Florida, please visit [steps to certification](#) and [certificate types and requirements](#) to review what is required. In addition, Florida offers numerous [certification pathways](#) for an educator to satisfy requirements necessary to move from the temporary to the professional certificate. To investigate further, the BEC provides a wealth of information on the [educator certification site](#) including answers to [frequently asked questions](#) and a host of [certification contacts](#).

Through its timely, accurate and efficient services, the Bureau of Educator Certification ensures that instructional employees in Florida possess the knowledge, skills, and professional responsibility necessary to provide highly effective instructional opportunities that foster each student's successful academic achievement. The BEC strives to promote certification in Florida as not only a professional achievement threshold that designates an educator's preparedness, but also to symbolize an educator's understanding of foundational expectations for quality instruction and professional responsibility to Florida's students.

### **Teaching Positions Available in Florida**

Each Florida school district makes decisions locally for employment of teachers. However, Florida has one website where you can find employment information for all school districts: [www.teachinflorida.com](http://www.teachinflorida.com). This site includes a wealth of information for teachers and prospective teachers and is a one-stop portal to employment in our teaching force.

*Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and be sure to visit the*

*[Just For Teachers Website](#).*