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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: School District Superintendents
District Certification Contact Persons

FROM: David C. Ashburn

DATE: June 12, 2001

SUBJECT: Educator Certification Legislative and Policy Changes

This memorandum provides information regarding changes in Florida Statutes that impact educator certification which were enacted during the 2001 legislative session. Even though there were fewer changes than in the 2000 session, there are several of importance and relevance to certification and personnel responsibilities and processes in the school district.

The memorandum will be available at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/bin00061/home0061.htm>. If you have questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me or the person shown above.

DA/bg

CS/CS HB 1193 Sections Amending Florida Statutes Related to Educator Certification. The changes are effective July 1, 2001.

Section 5 amends Section 231.095, Florida Statutes, related to teachers assigned duties outside the field of certification.

Topic: Out-of-field teachers

Language is added that further clarifies that the local district school board shall determine by policy the criteria for demonstration of subject area expertise as one option for teachers to be considered qualified in the field of assignment.

Note: The Division of Professional Educators Memorandum 01-09 dated September 15, 2000, explains in detail procedures for implementation and the staff reporting requirements. The memorandum is available on the home page of the Division of Professional Educators.

Section 6 amends Section 231.096, Florida Statutes, related to assistance for teachers teaching out-of-field.

Topic: Out-of-field teachers

Each district school board is to contact its regional workforce board to identify resources that may assist teachers who are teaching out-of-field and who are pursuing certification.

Section 7 amends Section 231.15, Florida Statutes, related to positions and certificates required.

Topic: Athletic Coaching Certificates

Beginning July 1, 2001, the part-time certificate covering athletic coaching will no longer be issued. Instead, a full-time athletic coaching certificate will be issued that may be used for either part-time or full-time coaching. The requirements for a full-time three-year athletic coaching certificate and a full-time five-year athletic coaching certificate remain the same as those required for the part-time certificates. Until the valid part-time athletic certificates expire and are phased out, the part-time certificates will continue to be appropriate for part-time coaching. If a coach moves from part-time duties to full-time coaching, a full-time athletic coaching certificate is needed and may be issued upon submission of an application and fee.

Section 8 amends Section 231.17, Florida Statutes, related to general certification requirements.

Topic 1: Timeline for Passing Basic Skills Test

The requirement for demonstration of mastery of general knowledge by passing the required test (currently CLAST or Praxis I) within one calendar year of employment

under the Temporary Certificate is amended. A school district is now allowed to continue to employ the individual needing to present a passing score on the general knowledge test who is under contract at the end of the **calendar** year until the end of the **contract** year.

For example: A teacher is hired on November 14. The teacher has one calendar year, until November 13 of the next school year to present passing scores on the general knowledge basic skills test. Because the end of the calendar year falls in the middle of a school year, the new language allows the school district to continue to employ the teacher until the end of the contract year rather than terminate the employment on November 14 of that second school year.

It is further clarified that the school district shall not employ nor continue the employment of an individual past the end of the contract year in which the one calendar year falls in any position that requires a Temporary Certificate. The teacher may continue to be employed in another job classification such as a substitute teacher but shall not continue to be employed as a full-time teacher requiring a Temporary Certificate. Upon presenting passing scores on the general knowledge basic skills test, the individual may be re-employed as a full-time teacher (if all other requirements are met).

Topic 2: Alternative Certification Programs

There are currently four school districts and one research developmental school that have district developed state-approved alternative certification programs. Beginning July 1, 2001, a school district may adopt and implement one of these alternative certification programs for use in the district. The district school board must provide written notification to the Bureau of Educator Certification of such intent. Modifications to an existing program must be submitted to the Bureau for review and approval.

The currently approved district-developed alternative certification programs and contact persons are:

▪ Hillsborough County	Sarah Brown	813/272-4499
▪ Manatee County	Steve Zickafoose	941/741-7753
▪ Broward County	Marge Sasse	954/424-4124
▪ Orange County	Renalia Dubose	407/317-3304
▪ FSU University School	Eileen McDaniel	850/644-3540

Note: July 1, 2001, the alternative certification modules of the Broward County/FSU University School programs will be available statewide through on-line delivery. Details will be forthcoming.

Section 9 creates Section 231.1726, Florida Statutes, related to a district-issued Adjunct Certificate.

Topic: Certification of Adjunct Educators

A district school board may issue an adjunct part-time teaching certificate valid for five years to an individual who meets the following requirements:

1. fulfills requirements of Section 231.17(2)(a)-(f), F.S., and
2. demonstrates subject area expertise in the area to be taught by having a minor in the subject area or by demonstrating subject area expertise as determined by school board policy.

The district school board must comply with the following requirements:

1. use the adjunct certificate to supplement not supplant a school's instructional staff;
2. allow the adjunct teacher to participate in a new teacher training program, if offered by the district;
3. assign (by the principal) an experienced peer mentor to assist an adjunct certificate holder during the first year of teaching; and
4. provide an orientation to classroom management prior to assigning an adjunct teacher to a school.

The adjunct teaching certificate is renewable if:

1. the applicant completes a minimum of sixty inservice points or 3 semester hours of college credit which must include instruction in classroom management, district school board procedures, school culture and other activities that enhance the teaching skills of the adjunct teacher; and
2. the applicant has received satisfactory performance evaluations during each year of teaching under the adjunct certificate.

Individuals who are certified and employed by the district pursuant to Section 231.1726, F.S., shall have all the rights and protection of the laws as teachers certified pursuant to Section 231.17, F. S.

Applying Current Laws to Individuals Who Have Been Issued Temporary Certificates Valid 1999-2001 or 2000-2002.

It has been determined that each applicant shall be provided the greatest flexibility and options in law effective July 1, 2000, for the initial Professional Certificate providing application is filed after July 1, 2000. The following procedures are applicable only when an individual holds a Temporary Certificate for the 1999-2001 or 2000-2002 school years and submits a new application after July 1, 2000.

1. Process the application under new laws if the application is received after July 1, 2000, **and**
 - The application is for the Professional Certificate, **or**

- The application is for an addition of a subject and the applicant will qualify for a Professional Certificate under new laws for the additional subject.
2. If the application is received for an addition and the applicant will only qualify under new laws for a Professional Certificate in the initial subject shown on the Temporary Certificate, process the addition application under old laws and send the applicant a letter to advise that s/he is eligible to apply for the Professional Certificate.
 3. If a certificate issued by another state is used to establish eligibility for a certificate, the following criteria must be met:
 - The certificate must be used in accordance with established procedures for subject area or general knowledge testing states or with appropriate experience.
 - The certificate must be the standard certificate from that state and valid at the time the application for the Professional Certificate (or addition) is received.