

# 2000 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

## 1. **Changes: Section 240.529 (1) and (2), F.S.**

New language emphasizes the need for teacher preparation programs to prepare their graduates to teach Florida's diverse student populations and the Sunshine State Standards.

State-approved teacher preparation programs are to be held accountable for producing graduates with the competencies and skills necessary to help the state's diverse student population, including students with Limited English Proficiency, meet high standards for academic achievement.

Departments and colleges of education shall emphasize the Sunshine State Standards and incorporate appropriate English for Speakers of Other Languages instruction so that program graduates will have completed the requirements for teaching Limited English Proficient students in Florida public schools.

### **Implementation:**

Based on 2000 legislative changes and June 13, 2000, amendments to State Board of Education Rules, program requirements for students entering their freshman year of college in or after the 2000-2001 academic year must include appropriate instruction so that program graduates meet the requirements for teachers of Limited English Proficient students.

In addition, the Sunshine State Standards for PK-12 students must be emphasized in all teacher preparation programs and must be reflected in the teacher preparation program design.

## 2. **Changes: Section 240.529(3), F.S.**

Language pertaining to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) process and an alternative approval process was deleted.

### **Implementation:**

Each teacher preparation program seeking state-approval will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Education. Those teacher preparation programs seeking NCATE accreditation will continue to be reviewed jointly by the Department of Education and NCATE. For state university teacher preparation programs, the Board of Regents review will also be a part of the joint review. Changes to statute do not affect the Department's joint review arrangements with the Board of Regents and NCATE.

**3. Changes: Section 240.529(4)(b), F.S.**

Additional criteria for continued approval of teacher preparation programs identified by the Education Standards Commission must emphasize instruction in classroom management and working with underachieving students and must provide for evaluation of teacher candidates' performance in these areas.

**Implementation:**

The Education Standards Commission will be recommending to the State Board of Education changes in Continued Approval criteria to reflect classroom management and working with underachieving students. Universities will be notified when changes are approved by the State Board of Education.

Based on amendments to Section 6A-5.066, FAC, teacher preparation program requirements for students entering their freshman year of college in or after the 2000-2001 academic year must include a three-semester-hour course in classroom management. In addition, courses and experiences must include instruction, observation, practice and competency demonstration in instructional strategies that address various learning styles, exceptionalities, achievement levels, and other specialized circumstances.

**4. Changes: Section 240.529(4)(e), F.S.**

Requirements for the institution's annually administered employer satisfaction survey have been specified. Institutions must survey, at a minimum, graduate's ability to do the following:

- a. Write and speak in a logical and understandable style with appropriate grammar.
- b. Recognize signs of students' difficulty with the reading and computational process and apply appropriate measures to improve students' reading and computational performance.
- c. Use and integrate appropriate technology in teaching and learning processes.
- d. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Sunshine State Standards.

**Implementation:**

Survey instruments submitted to the Department of Education for approval as a part of the 2000 Institutional Program Evaluation Plan (which is to be submitted by December 1, 2000) must require employers to rate graduates on the items indicated above.

Survey results which include the above items will be reported in the 2001 Institutional Program Evaluation Plan (IPEP).

**5. Changes: Section 240.529(4)(f)1., F.S.**

Additional requirements have been specified for state and public reporting by institutions. The additional reporting requirements become effective with the 2001-2002 academic year. Additional information which must be reported include:

- a. The percent of graduates obtaining full-time teaching employment within the first year of graduation.
- b. The average length of stay of graduates in their full-time teaching positions.
- c. Satisfaction ratings required in Section 240.529 (4)(e), F.S.

**Implementation:**

Institutions should implement procedures to begin collecting the data required in a. and b. above during the 2001-2002 academic year. The data collected will be reported to the state and the public beginning in 2002.

The survey results required in c. above must be reported in the 2001 Institution Performance Evaluation Plan.

**6. Changes: Section 240.529(4)(f)2., F.S.**

Beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year, each public and private institution offering training for school readiness-related professions, including training in the fields of child care and early childhood education, whether offering vocational credit, associate in science degree programs, or associate in arts degree programs, shall annually report information regarding these programs to the state and the general public in a uniform and comprehensible manner that conforms with definitions and methods proposed by the Education Standards Commission. This information must include, at a minimum:

- a. Average length of stay of graduates in their positions.
- b. Satisfaction ratings of graduates' employers.

**Implementation:**

The Education Standards Commission will propose definitions and methods for collecting and reporting data beginning with the 2001-2002 academic year.