

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
February 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-4.004, Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recent legislation passed by the Florida Legislature and signed by Governor DeSantis has changed provisions relating to issuance of Florida Educator's Certificates.

Senate Bill 7070 (2019-23, Section 17, Laws of Florida) changed the requirements for demonstration of Mastery of General Knowledge for Florida's educators. Consistent with those changes this rule amendment eliminates the requirement for educators working under a Temporary Certificate to demonstrate Mastery of General Knowledge during their first year of employment, eliminates the requirement to demonstrate Mastery of General Knowledge to reapply for certification after a Temporary Certificate has expired, and updates the requirements for extensions to the validity period of Temporary Certificates. The rulemaking will also create a new Restricted Professional Certificate for educators who serve in capacities other than classroom teachers.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.004, F.A.C.

Facilitator/Presenter: Dr. Paul O. Burns, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality

6A-4.004 Florida Educator's Certificates with Academic, Administrative, Degreed Career and Technical, and Specialty Class Coverages.

A Florida educator's certificate is issued to an applicant with academic, administrative, degreed career and technical, and specialty class coverages as specified below.

(1) Temporary certificate.

(a) The three-year nonrenewable temporary certificate may be issued to an applicant who does not qualify for the professional certificate but meets the following requirements:

1. Holds a valid Official Statement of Status of Eligibility as specified in section 1012.56(1), F.S., which reflects that the applicant has satisfied specialization requirements for the subject requested;

2. Obtains full-time employment in a position for which a Florida educators' certificate is required in a Florida public, state supported, or a nonpublic school which has a Department of Education approved system for documenting the demonstration of required professional education competence. Verification of employment shall be submitted by a Florida district superintendent or designee or the chief administrative officer; and;

3. No change.

~~(b) Mastery of General Knowledge. An applicant shall demonstrate mastery of general knowledge within one (1) calendar year of employment under the temporary certificate pursuant to section 1012.56(7), F.S., by one of the following options per section 1012.56(3), F.S.:~~

~~1. Passing scores on all subtests of the FTCE General Knowledge Test per subsection 6A-4.0021(7), F.A.C.;~~

~~2. A valid, standard certificate issued by another state per paragraph 6A-4.002(1)(i), F.A.C.;~~

~~3. A valid, standard certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards per paragraph 6A-4.002(1)(j), F.A.C.;~~

~~4. A valid standard certificate issued by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence per paragraph 6A-4.002(1)(m), F.A.C.;~~

~~5. Two semesters of successful full-time or part-time teaching at an accredited post-secondary institution per paragraph 6A-4.002(3)(c), F.A.C.; or~~

~~6. Passing scores on the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination per paragraph 6A-4.0021(12)(a), F.A.C.~~

~~(b)(e) Expired temporary certificates. A new three-year nonrenewable temporary certificate may be issued to an~~

applicant who satisfies all the following:

1. Held a temporary certificate which has expired for more than one (1) school fiscal year; and

~~2. Demonstrates mastery of general knowledge by one of the options specified in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule, on or before June 30, 2019, and~~

~~2.3. Meets all requirements specified in paragraph (1)(a) of this rule.~~

~~(c)(4)~~ Extensions to temporary certificates. When an individual has not met requirements for the professional certificate the Commissioner shall grant a one-time extension to the validity of the temporary certificate based upon the following criteria:

1. The individual must submit a completed CG-10 application and fee per rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C., before the temporary certificate is expired for more than one (1) school fiscal year; and

~~2. The individual must have demonstrated mastery of general knowledge by one of the options specified in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule; and~~

~~2.3.~~ The district school superintendent or governing authority of a university lab school, state-supported school, or private school must submit a request on behalf of the individual written on official letterhead, addressed to the Commissioner of Education and delivered to the Bureau of Educator Certification, Room 201, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, requesting extension of the temporary certificate for two (2) additional years based on evidence that during the validity of the temporary certificate:

a. ~~Two (2) additional years based on evidence that during the validity of the temporary certificate~~ The employee experienced serious illness or, serious injury, or other extenuating circumstances resulting in unexpected hardship that prevented the employee from satisfying all requirements for the professional certificate;

b. The employee experienced extenuating circumstances resulting in unexpected hardship that prevented the employee from satisfying all requirements for the professional certificate;

~~c.b. Two (2) additional years based on evidence that during the validity of the temporary certificate~~ The employee's spouse served on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces or a related reserve component resulting in unexpected hardship that prevented the employee from satisfying all requirements for the professional certificate; or

~~d.e. One (1) additional year based on evidence that during the validity of the temporary certificate~~ The employee earned a summative rating of ~~effective or~~ highly effective as specified in rule 6A-5.030, F.A.C., on the immediate

~~prior year's most recent calculation of the teacher's performance evaluation pursuant to section 1012.34, F.S., of students criteria pursuant to section 1012.34(3), F.S., based solely on the department's approved formula for calculating student learning growth for courses associated with statewide, standardized assessments as specified in rule 6A-5.0411, F.A.C.; or~~

e. The employee successfully completed a two-year mentorship program approved by the Department of Education per section 1012.56(8), F.S.

(2) Professional certificate.

(a) The professional certificate is the standard, renewable type of certificate issued by the Department of Education to an applicant who meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. Completes the application requirements as specified in rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.; and
2. Satisfies all eligibility criteria specified in section 1012.56(2), F.S.

(b) A standard, renewable professional certificate covering a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) subject in grades 6 through 12 may be issued to an applicant who meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. Completes the application requirements as specified in rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.;
2. Satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in paragraphs (a) through (h) of section 1012.56(2), F.S.;
3. Holds a master's or higher degree in a STEM area from an acceptable institution as defined in rule 6A-4.003,

F.A.C.;

4. through 5. No change.

(c) No change.

(3) Nonrenewable certificates covering speech-language impaired.

(a) A nonrenewable temporary certificate valid for two (2) school fiscal years shall be issued one (1) time to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

1. Completes the application requirements as specified in rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.;
2. Obtains full-time employment as specified in subparagraph (1)(a)2. of this rule;
3. through 4. No change.

(b) A nonrenewable professional certificate valid for five (5) school fiscal years shall be issued one (1) time to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

1. Meets requirements for a temporary certificate covering speech-language impaired as specified in paragraph

(3)(a) of this rule;

2. Demonstrates mastery of general knowledge by one of the options specified in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule;

3. Demonstrates mastery of professional preparation and education competence by one of the options specified in section 1012.56(6), F.S.; and

4. No change.

(4) Certificates covering only athletic coaching (Grades K-12).

(a) through (c) No change.

(5) Special temporary certificate covering only educational leadership.

(a) A special temporary certificate valid for three (3) school fiscal years reflecting educational leadership may be issued to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

1. though 2. No change.

3. Submits verification approved by the school district superintendent, chief administrative officer, or authorized designee that the applicant:

a. Has at least three (3) years of successful employment experience in a full-time executive management or leadership position; or

b. No change.

4. through 6. No change.

(b) through (c) No change.

(6) Restricted professional certificate.

(a) A restricted professional certificate is a renewable type of certificate valid for five (5) school years issued by the Department of Education to an applicant who meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. Completes the application requirements as specified in rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.; and

2. Satisfies all eligibility criteria specified in section 1012.56(2), F.S., except for mastery of general knowledge per section 1012.56(3), F.S.

3. A restricted professional certificate is only available to instructional personnel who are not classroom teachers, as defined in section 1012.01(2), F.S., in the following subject areas:

a. Educational Media Specialist;

b. School Counseling;

c. School Psychologist;

d. School Social Work; or

e. Speech-Language Impaired.

(b) An applicant who meets these requirements must only be assigned to non-classroom instructional positions for which they are certified.

~~(7)(6)~~ Addition of subjects to a professional certificate. A subject may be added to a valid renewable professional certificate when an applicant meets the following requirements:

(a) Completes application requirements as specified in rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.; and;

(b) No change.

~~(8)(7)~~ Addition of endorsements. An endorsement may be added to a valid three-year nonrenewable temporary or renewable professional certificate when an applicant meets the following requirements:

(a) Completes the application requirements as specified in rule 6A-4.0012, F.A.C.; and;

(b) No change.

~~(9)(8)~~ Expired certificates.

(a) through (d) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History—New 4-20-64, Amended 4-8-68, 7-7-68, 4-11-69, 4-11-70, 9-17-72, 8-17-74, Repromulgated 12-5-74, Amended 11-9-76, 7-1-79, 8-27-80, 1-3-82, 4-26-84, 11-18-84, 6-18-85, Formerly 6A-4.04, Amended 12-25-86, 10-18-88, 9-12-89, 12-4-89, 4-15-91, 10-10-91, 5-3-94, 10-15-01, 12-27-04, 11-26-08, 3-5-14, 12-20-16, 8-21-18.