

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
July 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Approval of New Rule 6M-4.735, Early Learning Professional Development Standards and Career Pathways

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.213(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) administers federal and state child care funds and partners with 30 local early learning coalitions to deliver comprehensive early learning services statewide. The office oversees three programs—the School Readiness Program, the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, and Child Care Resource and Referral services. OEL is required to submit its proposed rules to the State Board of Education for approval.

OEL is required to comply with lead agency responsibilities in the administration of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund. Section 1002.995, Florida Statutes, requires OEL to establish by rule early learning professional development training and course standards to be utilized for school readiness program providers and identify both formal and informal early learning career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized professional development. Rule 6M-4.735 describes the process and requirements for career pathways, stackable credentials and specializations. The incorporated form outlines a progression of professional development standards and competencies needed by early childhood educators and identifies informal and formal credentials and specializations.

The Office of Early Learning created the current rule text and incorporated form to establish provisions for participation in an informal and formal career pathway, professional standards and core competencies, and competency based stackable credentials and certifications for early childhood educators.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-4.735, F.A.C., and Form OEL-SR 735 Early Learning Professional Development Standards and Career Pathways Handbook (under separate cover)

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