

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
February 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-5.0411, Calculations of Student Learning Growth for Use in School Personnel Evaluations

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.34, F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1012.34, F.S., requires the Commissioner of Education to approve student learning growth models for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Section 1012.34, F.S., also requires that school districts implement personnel evaluations that are based on several criteria, one of which is the performance of each educator's students. The approved student learning growth models are value-added models (VAMs) that provide districts an option for use in their local evaluation systems, and are also used by the department and state board in a number of ways. This rule incorporates the "Florida VAM Course List," which lists the courses that are currently used in the calculation. If a teacher teaches any of these courses, and has at least two students enrolled in the same course who tested on the corresponding statewide, standardized assessment, the teacher will receive a VAM score for the subject associated with the course.

New Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards have been implemented in districts, aligned to courses and course codes that are not reflected in the current list incorporated in paragraph (2)(b) of the rule. The core subject area courses remain relatively consistent from year to year, except when standards change, which has not occurred since the initial creation of the VAM course list in 2015. The rule will adopt and incorporate the updated "Florida VAM Course List," which will be aligned to the course list identified in the "Course Code Directory and Instructional Personnel Assignments," adopted and incorporated in Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C., which was amended to better align with the new B.E.S.T. Standards. The course code directory changed considerably with the adoption of the new standards, and the "Florida VAM Course List" must be updated as a result of these changes.

To align the VAM course list with the course code directory, we are proposing to: remove courses from the VAM course list that are no longer in the course code directory; remove courses for students who do not take a statewide standardized assessment included in the VAMs, which are students in grades K-2 and Access courses; add courses that are new for the 2021-22 school year; and update course names that have changed since the list was adopted in 2014-15. Ultimately, the new course list will contain the 2021-22 VAM courses that will be used to compute teacher scores for the 2021-22 school year, as well as previous years' VAM course lists.

Teachers, schools, and districts will be primarily affected by this rule amendment which will align the VAM course list with the courses and course codes utilized by districts under the new B.E.S.T. Standards, creating a more unified system.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-5.0411, F.A.C. and Florida VAM Course List

Facilitator: Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner; Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement