

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
May 11, 2022

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

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.995(3), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) 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.

DEL is required to comply with lead agency responsibilities in the administration of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund. Section 1002.995, F.S., requires DEL 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, F.A.C., 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 rule is being amended to comply with statutory changes to sections 1002.995(2) and 1002.55(3)(c)2., F.S., as a result of the passage of House Bill 419. Other revisions to the rule include technical changes to the rule text and form, an updated logo and infographic in the rule form, clarification of the term “practitioners” replacing it with “educators,” and the removal of six (6) credentials that do not meet the requirements to be “stacked” in an informal career pathway. One specialization was changed to a credential for clarification. Revisions also include the identification of a micro-credential (e.g., emergent literacy) as an informal credential that can be stacked for earning a specialization, a process for recognizing a micro-credential or a specialization, and specialization requirements. No other amendments to the rule were made.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6M-4.735, F.A.C. and Form DEL-SR 735, Early Learning Professional Development Standards and Career Pathways Handbook (June 2022) (under separate cover)

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