

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Action Item**  
October 20, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

For Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Sections 1012.56(9), and 1012.59(3), F.S.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Section (s.) 1012.56(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to specify, by rule, the examination scores required for the issuance of a professional certificate and temporary certificate. Such rules must define examination competencies and skills and establish uniform evaluation guidelines and passing scores for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE). Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), fulfills these requirements by providing a description, by reference, of the competencies and skills to be assessed. These competencies and skills are included in the document "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida." As changes to the following examinations are made, a new edition of this document must be developed and incorporated, by reference, into the rule:

- General Knowledge (GK) subtests in Reading, Writing, English Language Skills, and Mathematics;
- Professional Education (PEd) with a focus on pedagogy and professional practices; and
- Subject Area Examinations (SAE) with 39 subject areas.

Accepted professional practice for assessment programs such as FTCE requires the periodic review of all program aspects impacted by SBE rule, including the review and revision of the competencies and skills assessed and, as a result, the revision of the examinations and passing scores. The Florida Department of Education normally reviews these tests in 5-year cycles. The rule makes reference to the publication "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida," by edition, with new effective dates because it is revised and distributed regularly to reflect the current competencies and skills assessed by each examination.

The rule will adopt and incorporate new passing scores for the following four (4) subject area examinations, effective January 1, 2023: Deaf or Hard of Hearing K-12, School Counseling PK-12, School Psychologist PK-12, and Visually Impaired K-12 to reflect expectations of examinee performance with respect to SBE-approved FTCE competencies and skills adopted and incorporated into Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C., on March 19, 2019. Recommended passing scores serve as the minimum threshold for the knowledge that a beginning effective teacher candidate needs to be successful.

The rule will also adopt and incorporate the "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Seventh Edition," effective January 1, 2023. This document

outlines the competencies and skills, or content, of each current teacher certification examination. The adoption of the 27th edition will update the content of the following five (5) examinations to better reflect the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Student Performance Standards in Mathematics, adopted and incorporated in Rule 6A-1.09401, F.A.C.: the General Knowledge Test (GK), Elementary Education K-6, Mathematics 6-12, Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9, and Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3. A prospective teacher who seeks employment in Florida's K-12 public schools must learn these new competencies and skills and successfully pass the FTCE examinations. Every examinee taking the examinations based on the revised competencies and skills will be affected. The revised competencies and skills will serve as the basis for test development and scoring of FTCE examinations once approved.

The rule is also being amended to update FTCE eligibility requirements for military testing fee waivers to align with changes made by Senate Bill 896 during the 2022 Legislative session, which amends Section 1012.59(3), F.S. The proposed rule change will waive initial FTCE examination fees for current members of a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces and for honorably discharged veterans of reserves, and the spouse or surviving spouse of such a service member, regardless of whether the service member has served on active duty. Though not yet amended in the rule, this change is currently being implemented in practice to align with its effective date of July 1, 2022.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C. and Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida Twenty-Seventh Edition (under separate cover)

**Facilitator/Presenter:** Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor