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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: May 5, 2023

SUBJECT: House Bill 1, K-12 Education, Educator Certification

Contact Information:

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[House Bill 1](#), signed by Governor DeSantis into law on March 27, 2023, amends several provisions related to educator certification, which are effective immediately. The enrolled bill text is available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1>. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform school districts of new educator certification requirements. The bill amends section (s.) 1012.56, Florida Statutes (F.S.), including extending the validity period of certain temporary certificates to five years and making changes to mastery of general knowledge, mastery of subject area knowledge, and mastery of professional preparation and educator competence. Changes for school districts are noted below.

- The bill amends s. 1012.56(7), F.S., to extend the validity period of all eligible temporary certificates from three years to five years. Rule changes are underway to codify the changes below. Please visit <https://web02.fldoe.org/rules/Default> for more information.
 - Temporary certification applications submitted on or after March 27, 2023, will automatically be eligible for a five-year temporary certificate.
 - Valid temporary certificates with a validity period ending on June 30, 2023, will automatically be eligible for two additional years on a three-year temporary certificate.
 - Valid temporary certificates will be updated within the certification management system (Versa) automatically by June 30, 2023, even if they do not expire June 30, 2023. No further action is required by affected temporary certificate holders and school districts to complete this process.
 - Valid temporary certificates already under a two-year extension per the provisions of Rule 6A-4.004(1)(c), Florida Administrative Code, will not be extended further.
 - For example, if you are in year one of your two-year extension, your temporary certificate will still expire June 30, 2024. If you are in year two of your two-year extension, your temporary certificate will still expire June 30, 2023.
 - Please note that the following certificates are not impacted by House Bill 1:
 - A temporary certificate for military veterans continues to be valid for five years.
 - A temporary certificate covering speech-language impaired continues to be valid for two years.
 - An athletic coaching certificate continues to remain valid for three years.

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- A special temporary certificate covering educational leadership continues to be valid for three years.
 - A temporary certificate for an exchange teacher continues to remain valid for three years with an optional two-year extension.
- The bill amends s. 1012.56(3), F.S., to read:

The requirement of mastery of general knowledge shall be waived for an individual who has been provided 3 years of supports and instruction and who has been rated effective or highly effective under s. 1012.34 for each of the last 3 years.

- The bill amends s. 1012.56(5), F.S., to read:

For a subject requiring only a baccalaureate degree for which a Florida subject area examination has been developed, documentation of receipt of a master's or higher degree from an accredited postsecondary educational institution that the Department of Education has identified as having a quality program resulting in a baccalaureate degree or higher in the certificate subject area as identified by state board rule.

- The bill amends s. 1012.56(6), F.S., to read:

Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of professional preparation and education competence are: ... (f) Successful completion of professional preparation courses as specified in state board rule, successful completion of a professional preparation and education competence program pursuant to paragraph (8)(b), and documentation of three years of being rated effective or highly effective s. 1012.34, while holding a temporary certificate.

Achievement of a passing score on the professional education competence examination is removed from s. 1012.56(6)(f), F.S.

The Department will begin the rulemaking process to implement these provisions, including seeking input on linking master's or higher degrees with certificate subject areas.

The Department will continue to provide technical assistance to school districts as we work through the details of implementation and rulemaking. Thank you for your attention to these important changes.

PB/mlg

cc: School District Certification Supervisors
School District Human Resources Supervisors