



Council For Lifelong Learning
Teacher Certification

**Fact
Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What is EDUCATE 2000?</p>	<p>In 2000, the Legislature passed EDUCATE 2000 (Ch. 2000-301, L.O.F.), which stands for Educators Demonstrating Unequaled Competence Act: Teaching Excellence.</p> <p>This legislation was the direct result of the A+ Education Plan passed in 1999 which required a complete review of teacher certification in the State of Florida. This package completely reformed teacher certification by streamlining the process, eliminating barriers to entering the profession, and incentivizing the recruitment and retention of outstanding teachers.</p>
<p>2. Who must be certified?</p>	<p>Section 231.15, F.S., requires that individuals who hold positions as school supervisors, principals, teachers, library media specialists, school counselors, athletic coaches, or who otherwise provide instruction must hold the certificate required by law and rules of the State Board of Education. The law also requires that rules be adopted to allow school boards to employ noncertificated personnel in certain circumstances. (See Section 6A-1.0502, F.A.C.)</p> <p>Athletic coaches who voluntarily render service and are not employed by the school district are not required to hold certificates.</p>
<p>3. How many types of teacher certification are available?</p>	<p>Pursuant to s. 231.17(6), F.S., the Bureau of Teacher Certification issues two basic types of certificates to full-time teachers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a Temporary Certificate, valid for three school fiscal years and nonrenewable except under conditions provided for in statute, and• a Professional Certificate, valid for five school years and renewable with six semester hours of college credit in the subject area(s) or 120 inservice points or a combination of both. <p>DOE also issues a certificate to cover "athletic coaching". This certificate is used for individuals employed on either a part-time or full-time basis as a coach.</p> <p>An "adjunct" teaching certificate may also be issued by a school district, allowing individuals who do not hold state-issued teacher certification to teach.</p>

<p>4. What are "adjunct" teachers?</p>	<p>CS/CS/HB 1193 (Ch. 2001-47, L.O.F.) provides certification of adjunct teachers by district school boards. Adjunct teachers will be persons whose educational experience, life experience, or years of work, qualifies them to teach, yet who may not have academic qualifications or meet other requirements of the normal teacher certification process. They will be used to supplement, not replace state certified teachers.</p> <p>Specifically, the provisions require that the adjunct teacher shall be at least 18 years old; file a written statement, under oath, to uphold the principles in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, hold at least a bachelor's degree with a 2.5 GPA, submit to a fingerprint check, be of good moral character, and be competent and capable of performing the duties, functions, and responsibilities of a teacher. Additionally, they must demonstrate "expertise" in the subject area. Expertise in the subject area in which an adjunct teacher will be teaching shall be demonstrated by either: (1) A minor in the subject area; or (2) School board policy, which will establish what will constitute "demonstration" of subject area mastery.</p> <p>The effect of allowing districts to certify individuals as adjunct teachers is to allow these adjunct teachers to teach <i>part-time</i> without having to pass a state-required examination or take numerous hours of education school class work.</p> <p>The district must assign a "peer teacher" to assist these adjunct teachers in their first year of teaching, and must also provide the adjunct teacher with an orientation in classroom management, prior to assignment. The adjunct teacher certificate is good for five years, and may be renewed under specified circumstances relating to completion of certain college course work, and a satisfactory evaluation during each year of teaching as an adjunct teacher.</p>
<p>5. What are the requirements to obtain a <u>professional</u> teaching certificate in Florida?</p>	<p>An applicant must complete the following to obtain a Professional Florida Educator Certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be at least 18 years of age; b) file a written statement, under oath, to subscribe to and uphold the principles incorporated in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Florida; c) document receipt of a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher learning or a nonaccredited institution of higher learning identified by

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	<p>the Department of Education (DOE) as having a high quality program;</p> <p>d) obtain fingerprint clearance from the Department of Law Enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation;</p> <p>e) be of good moral character;</p> <p>f) be competent in performing the duties, functions, and responsibilities of a teacher;</p> <p>g) demonstrate mastery of <i>general knowledge</i>;</p> <p>h) demonstrate mastery of <i>subject area knowledge</i>; and</p> <p>i) demonstrate mastery of <i>professional preparation and education competence</i>.</p>
<p>6. What are the requirements to obtain <u>temporary</u> certification?</p>	<p>An applicant must complete all the requirements listed in items (a) through (f) above and do the following to obtain a Temporary Florida Educator Certificate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Until July 1, 2002, complete the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule. 2) Beginning July 1, 2002, complete the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule or achieve a passing score on the subject area examination required by state board rule. <p>In addition, the requirement for demonstration of mastery of general knowledge must be met within one calendar year of the date of employment under the temporary certificate.</p>
<p>7. What requirements does DOE use to determine a "nonaccredited" institution with a high quality program?</p>	<p>According to the Department of Education, a nonaccredited institution of higher learning will be considered to have a high quality bachelor's or higher degree program, if they meet any one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The institution is listed in the US DOE Directory of Postsecondary Institutions - Volume 1., that are accredited by at least one accreditation agency (other than one of the six regional associations); 2) The institution's degrees are accepted for certification by their own state's Department of Education; or 3) The institution holds a certificate of exemption pursuant to s. 246.085(1)(b), F.S.
<p>8. How does an applicant demonstrate mastery of general knowledge?</p>	<p>Before July 1, 2002, acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) or other basic skills exams requirement by state board rule; 2) Achievement of passing scores on another state's general knowledge exams; 3) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state that requires an examination of mastery of general

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	<p>knowledge;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS); or 5) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous successful full-time teaching or administrative experience during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application for certification. <p>Beginning July 1, 2002, acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Achievement of passing scores on the basic skills exams requirement by state board rule; 2) Achievement of passing scores on the CLAST earned prior to July 1, 2002; 3) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state that requires an examination of mastery of general knowledge; 4) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS; or 5) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and documentation of two years of continuous successful full-time teaching or administrative experience during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application for certification.
<p>9. How does an applicant demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge?</p>	<p>Before July 1, 2002, acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completion of the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule <i>and</i> achievement of passing scores on the National Teacher's Examination series, a successor to that series, or other subject area exams required by state board rule; 2) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state that requires an examination of mastery of subject area knowledge; 3) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS; or 4) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and documentation of two years of continuous successful full-time teaching or administrative experience during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application for certification. <p>Beginning July 1, 2002, acceptable means of demonstrating</p>

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	<p>mastery of subject area knowledge are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Achievement of passing scores on the subject area exams required by state board rule; 2) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state that requires an examination of mastery of subject area knowledge; 3) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS; or 4) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous successful full-time teaching or administrative experience during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application for certification.
<p>10. How does an applicant demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence?</p>	<p>Before July 1, 2002, acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of professional preparation and education competence are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Achievement of passing scores on the professional education competency exam required by state board rule; and documentation of one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completion of an approved teacher preparation program at a postsecondary institution within Florida; b) Successful completion of an approved school district alternative preparation program, pursuant to s. 231.17(7)(b), F.S.; c) Completion of professional preparation college courses as specified in state board rule and successful completion of a district professional education competence program pursuant to law. 2) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS; or 3) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous successful full-time teaching or administrative experience during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application for certification. <p>Beginning July 1, 2002, acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of professional preparation and education competence are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completion of an approved teacher preparation program at a postsecondary institution in Florida; 2) Completion of a teacher preparation program at a postsecondary institution outside of Florida <i>and</i> achievement of passing scores on the professional education competency exam required by state board rule;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state that requires an examination of mastery of professional education competence; 4) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS; 5) A valid standard teaching certificate issued by another state and documentation of 2 years of continuous successful full-time teaching or administrative experience during the 5-year period immediately preceding the date of application for certification; or 6) Completion of the DOE's professional preparation and education competency program.
<p>11. What is the Professional Preparation and Education Competency Program?</p>	<p>EDUCATE 2000 required that by July 1, 2002, DOE must develop and each school district must provide a cohesive <i>competency-based</i> preparation program so that teachers could satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competency requirements to receive a professional certificate. The program must include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A minimum period of initial preparation prior to assuming duties as the teacher of record. 2) An option for collaboration between school districts and other supporting agencies. 3) Experienced peer mentors. 4) An assessment that provides for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) An initial evaluation of competencies to determine an appropriate individualized professional development plan. b) A post evaluation to assure successful completion of the program. 5) Content knowledge that includes, but is not limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e) Requirements specified in state board rule. f) The educator accomplished practices approved by the state board. g) A variety of data indicators for student progress. h) Methodologies, including technology-based methodologies, for teaching subject content that supports the Sunshine State Standards for students. i) Techniques for effective classroom management. j) Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for students. k) Methodologies for assuring the ability of all students to read, write, and compute. 6) Required achievement of passing scores on the

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	<p>professional education competency exam required by state board rule.</p>
<p>12. How does an individual demonstrate the professional competence required as a part of certification?</p>	<p>Until July 1, 2002, each district <i>may</i> develop and maintain an alternative certification program. As mentioned earlier in the section on alternative certification, each participant must be assessed by the district to determine if they have expertise and have met the requirements for specialization, in the subject area in which they are seeking certification. Participants must complete training only in competency areas in which they are deficient and must demonstrate mastery of professional education competence within two years of initial employment.</p> <p>Until July 1, 2002, each district <i>must</i> develop and maintain a system for the district's instructional staff to document professional education competence. All district instructional staff hired on or after July 1, 1997, must demonstrate mastery within the first year of employment, unless they have completed an approved teacher education program in this state; completed a teacher education program and at least two years of successful full-time teaching experience in another state; or are participating in the district's alternative certification program.</p>
<p>13. May teachers add areas of certification to their certificate?</p>	<p>Teachers may add areas of certification to their certificate by attaining a passing score on an examination of competency in the subject area to be added to their certificate and completing the subject area content requirements.</p>
<p>14. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 231.15, F.S. -- Positions for which certificates are required Section 231.17, F.S. -- Teacher certification requirements Section 231.1726, F.S. -- Certification of adjunct educators</p>
<p>15. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Teacher Certification (850) 488-2319; www.firn.edu/doe</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on General Education (850) 414-9780</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Council for Lifelong Learning (850) 414-6694</p>