

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** John L. Winn

**DATE:** April 28, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Workshops on New Educator Certification Examinations

The Department of Education is pleased to announce two regional briefing meetings. These sessions will address passing scores for certain educator certification examinations and the establishment of a testing fee for the General Knowledge Test. The Department will provide information and seek additional input from all interested parties relevant to the recommended passing scores and the testing fee.

Passing scores are being recommended for one revised educator certification examination, Professional Education, and two new examinations, Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum and Physical Education K-12. The Professional Education Test has been revised extensively to align it with the Educator Accomplished Practices. The Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum test covers four content areas: English, general science, mathematics, and social science. The existing separate tests for Middle Grades English 5-9, Middle Grades General Science 5-9, Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9, and Middle Grades Social Science 5-9 will continue to be administered. The Physical Education K-12 exam replaces the Physical Education K-8 and Physical Education 6-12 exams, effective July 1, 2003.

We are continuing implementation of the major recommendations in "The Review of Educator Certification Report" of January 2000. The Legislative directives that implemented the report were enacted in Spring 2000. They include streamlining the certification structure and processes and reducing the number of subject coverages. In February 2003, the State Board of Education adopted the competencies and skills for the revised test and the two new certification tests.

**JOHN L. WINN**  
*Deputy Commissioner*  
*Accountability, Research, and Measurement*

Workshops on New Educator Certification Examinations  
April 28, 2003  
Page Two

These tests will be available in July 2003. The next step is for the Board to establish transitional passing scores for these examinations.

The Department expresses appreciation and sincere thanks to the many individuals throughout the state who participated in the various test development, validation, and standard setting activities for the implementation of these new examinations. All of this work was necessary to achieve the State's goals of having a streamlined certification model and rigorous certification examinations aligned with the Sunshine State Standards for students.

Florida Statute 1012.59 authorizes the State to charge fees for the certification examinations. Currently, a fee of \$25.00 is charged for each registration for a subject area examination, and \$25.00 is charged for each registration for the Professional Education Test. A similar fee is being proposed for each registration for the General Knowledge Test.

The briefing meetings have been scheduled for the times and locations shown below. Please share this information with other interested individuals.

April 30, 2003            Room 403 Turlington Building  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.        325 W. Gaines Street  
                                 Tallahassee, FL

April 30, 2003            Board Room  
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.        Broward County School Board  
                                 600 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
                                 Fort Lauderdale, FL

If you are unable to attend, please send your written comments to:

Kathy Fearon  
Florida Department of Education  
414 Turlington Building  
325 W. Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Fax – (850) 487-8431

Thank you for your interest and assistance.

JLW:kf:sm