FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

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TO: School District Superintendents
Deans and Directors of Colleges of Education
District Directors of Personnel
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Certification Contacts

FROM: David C. Ashburn

DATE: April 25, 2002

SUBJECT: Changes in Educator Certification Rules and Requirements

This document is to provide information regarding the new certification subject area rules for Elementary Education (grades K-6) and Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) effective July 1, 2002, and other subject area changes to be effective beginning July 1, 2003. These changes were approved by the State Board of Education on March 12, 2002. It is expected that the approval of the new subject areas will result in the modifications of teacher preparation programs throughout the state to transition from the current exceptional student categorical areas and the Elementary Education (grades 1-6) to the new subject coverages.

Copies of the new and revised rules are included in this technical assistance package as well as information for implementation of these changes. After review, if you have specific questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the person shown above. Please also note that the competencies and skills adopted for the new Florida General Knowledge Examination, Elementary Education (grades K-6) subject area examination, and Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) subject area examination to be effective beginning July 1, 2002, are now available on the Internet at www.firn.edu/doe/sas/ftce/ftcecomp.htm.

Immediate Certification Subject Changes

Severe or Profound Disablities Endorsement (Name Change) Rule 6A-4.01793, FAC.

- The endorsement name is changed from Profoundly Handicapped to reflect the more appropriate designation of severe or profound disabilities.

Prekindergarten Disabilities Endorsement (Name Change) Rule 6A-4.01792, FAC.

- The endorsement name is changed from Prekindergarten Handicapped to reflect the more appropriate designation of prekindergarten disabilities.

Industrial Arts-Technology Education (grades 6-12) Rule 6A-4.060, FAC.

- The rule is amended to expand the industrial/technology areas in the analysis plan from seven to ten areas to include transportation, biomedical, and information technologies.

Certification Structure Changes and the Two-year Transition Period Beginning July 1, 2002

The transition period is necessary to accommodate applicants applying before July 1, 2002, and students enrolled in Florida teacher preparation programs.

Elementary Education (grades K-6) Rule 6A-4.0151, FAC.

- Beginning July 1, 2002, applicants will apply for initial certification or add-on certification in **Elementary Education K-6.** Applications received beginning July 1, 2002, will no longer be accepted for Elementary Education (grades 1-6). After June 30, 2002, applications that request Elementary Education (grades 1-6) will be processed for Elementary Education (grades K-6).

- An **Examination Transition Period** will be in effect July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2004. The Elementary Education (grades 1-6) Subject Area Examination will not be offered after June 30, 2004.

  - An individual who applies for Elementary Education (grades 1-6) before July 1, 2002, under old rules, must take the Elementary Education (grades 1-6) subject area examination and earn a passing score before July 1, 2004, or the applicant will be subject to passing the new Elementary Education (grades K-6) examination for a Professional Certificate.

  - An individual who holds a valid certificate in Elementary Education (grades 1-6) and wishes to have Elementary Education (grades K-6) added to his/her certificate must apply for the addition after July 1, 2002, and submit a passing

score on the new Elementary Education (grades K-6) examination to have new Elementary Education (grades K-6) coverage. The Elementary Education (grades 1-6) coverage **will not be automatically converted** to the new Elementary Education (grades K-6) coverage when a Professional Certificate is renewed. The Elementary Education (grades 1-6) coverage will be retained when the Professional Certificate is renewed if renewal requirements for that subject area are met.

- Beginning July 1, 2002, an individual applying for initial certification in Elementary Education (grades K-6) may present a passing score on either the Elementary Education (grades 1-6 or grades K-6) subject area examination. This transition plan to satisfy the subject area test requirement for the Professional Certificate is available only through June 30, 2004. Effective July 1, 2004, certification in Elementary Education (grades K-6) requires a passing score on the Elementary Education (grades K-6) subject area examination for a Professional Certificate.

Primary Education (grades K-3) Rule 6A-4.014, FAC.

- Beginning July 1, 2002, Primary Education (grades K-3) will no longer be an available certification area. Individuals who hold the Primary Education (grades K-3) coverage will retain the coverage as long as the continuity of valid certificates is maintained. The Primary Education (grades K-3) coverage will be retained when the Professional Certificate is renewed if renewal requirements for the subject area are met.

- An **Examination Transition Period** will be in effect July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2004. Therefore, an individual who applies for Primary Education (grades K-3) before July 1, 2002, must take the Primary Education (grades K-3) subject area examination and earn a passing score before July 1, 2004, or he/she will no longer be eligible for Primary Education certification.

Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) Rule 6A-4.01795, FAC.

- Beginning July 1, 2002, applicants will apply for initial or add-on certification in **Exceptional Student Education K-12.** Applicants on or after July 1, 2002, will no longer be allowed to apply for the separate categorical areas of: Emotionally Handicapped (EH), Mentally Handicapped (MH), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), Physically Impaired (PI), and Varying Exceptionalities (VE). After June 30, 2002, applicants that request one of these five categorical areas will be processed for Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12).

- An **Examination Transition Period** will be in effect July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2004. **The EH, MH, SLD, PI, and VE (grades K-12) examinations will not be offered after June 30, 2004.**

  - An individual who applies for EH, MH, SLD, PI, or VE (grades K-12) before July 1, 2002, under old rules, must take the appropriate EH, MH, SLD, PI, or VE (grades K-12) subject area examination and earn a passing score before July 1,

2004, or he/she will no longer be eligible for certification in one of these categorical exceptional student education areas.

- An individual who holds a valid certificate in EH, MH, SLD, PI, or VE (grades K-12) and wishes to have the new Exceptional Student Education added to his/her certificate must apply for the addition after July 1, 2002, and must submit a passing score on the Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) subject area examination to have the new Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) coverage shown on the certificate. The categorical EH, MH, SLD, PI, or VE coverages (grades K-12) **will not be converted** to the new Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) coverage when a Professional Certificate is renewed. The categorical area will be retained on the Professional Certificate when renewed if the subject area renewal requirements are met.

- Beginning July 1, 2002, an applicant for initial certification in Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) may present a passing score on either the Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) subject area test or the appropriate categorical EH, MH, SLD, PI, or VE, subject area examination only through June 30, 2004. Effective July 1, 2004, regardless of the exceptional student education preparation program completed, the Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12) subject area examination must be passed for a Professional Certificate in Exceptional Student Education (grades K-12).

- **A District Add-on Certification Program participant** must submit an application for the addition of the categorical exceptional student education area (EH, MH, SLD, or VE) **prior to July 1, 2002. No one shall be allowed to begin an inservice add-on certification program in EH, MH, SLD, or VE after June 30, 2002, if the application for an addition was not filed by June 30, 2002**. The district may consider seeking approval for an add-on program in the new ESE K-12 area.

Autism Endorsement Rule 6A-4.01796, FAC.

- Beginning July 1, 2002, an applicant may apply for a new endorsement in Autism to be shown on a valid certificate with any coverage in exceptional student education.

Middle Grades Endorsement Rule 6A-4.4.0232, FAC.

- The Middle Grades Endorsement is repealed effective July 1, 2002, and will no longer be available. An individual who has the Middle Grades Endorsement will retain the endorsement on the Professional Certificate as long as the validity of the Professional Certificate is maintained through renewal. The Middle Grades Endorsement will be shown on the initial Professional Certificate if the Professional Certificate is issued for a validity period consecutive to the validity period of the last Temporary Certificate held on which the Middle Grades Endorsement is shown.

- **A District Add-on Certification Program participant** must submit an application for the addition of the Middle Grades Endorsement **prior to July 1, 2002. No one shall be allowed to begin an inservice add-on certification program for the**

Middle Grades Endorsement after June 30, 2002, if the application for an addition was not filed by June 30, 2002.

School Food Service Rule 6A-4.030, FAC.

- The School Food Service coverage is repealed effective July 1, 2002, and will no longer be available. An individual who has the School Food Service coverage will retain the coverage on the Professional Certificate as long as the validity of the Professional Certificate is maintained through renewal. The School Food Service coverage will be shown on the initial Professional Certificate if the Professional Certificate is issued for a validity period consecutive to the validity period of the last Temporary Certificate held on which the School Food Service coverage is shown.

Adaptive Physical Endorsement Rule 6A-4.0281, FAC.

- The Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement is repealed effective July 1, 2002, and will no longer be available. An individual who has the Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement will retain the endorsement on the Professional Certificate as long as the validity of the Professional Certificate is maintained through renewal. The Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement will be shown on the initial Professional Certificate if the Professional Certificate is issued for a validity period consecutive to the validity period of the last Temporary Certificate held on which the Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement is shown.

- **A District Add-on Certification Program participant** must submit an application for the addition of the Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement **prior to July 1, 2002. No one shall be allowed to begin an inservice add-on certification program for the Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement after June 30, 2002, if the application for an addition was not filed by June 30, 2002.**

General Knowledge/Basic Skills Certification Examination Requirement Beginning July 1, 2002

- **Beginning July 1, 2002**, the new Florida-developed General Knowledge Examination for educator certification as required in Section 231.17, Florida Statutes, will be implemented. **After July 1, 2002, this new Florida general knowledge/basic skills test is the only test that may be taken to satisfy the general knowledge requirement for the Professional Certificate.**

- CLAST passing scores **earned prior to July 1, 2002**, will be acceptable.

- **Portions of the CLAST passed before July 1, 2002,** will be combined with the new General Knowledge Examination portions passed after July 1, 2002, to satisfy the general knowledge/basic skills examination requirements in reading, English language/essay, and mathematics.

- An individual who applies for certification before July 1, 2002, will have the option to pass the Praxis I PPST or submit a passing score on another state's general knowledge examination in accordance with laws in effect when he/she applies.

Certification Structure Changes Beginning July 1, 2003

Social Science (grades 6-12) Rule 6A-4.03321, FAC.

- The **amended** comprehensive social science certification will be effective beginning July 1, 2003. A Social Science (grades 6-12) certification coverage and subject area test are already available. The transition procedures for subject area testing and phase–out for the current single social science areas of History, Political Science, Geography, Economics, Sociology, and Psychology, have not been finalized. More information will be sent prior to July 1, 2003.

Physical Education (grades K-12) Rule 6A-4.0283, FAC.

- The new comprehensive Physical Education (grades K-12) will be effective beginning July 1, 2003. The transition procedures for the subject area testing and the phase-out of Physical Education (grades K-8) and Physical Education (grades 6-12) have not been finalized. More information will be sent prior to July 1, 2003.

Science (grades 6-12) Rule 6A-4.0323, FAC.

- Science (grades 6-12), a new comprehensive general science certification, will be available beginning July 1, 2003. The transition procedures for subject area testing and the current single science areas of Biology, Physics, Earth-Science, and Chemistry have not been finalized. More information will be sent prior to July 1, 2003.

DA/bg

Enclosures

6A-4.01796 Specialization Requirements for Endorsement in Autism - Academic Class

(1) A bachelor's or higher degree with certification in any exceptional student education area; and

(2) Twelve semester hours to include:

(a) Nature of autism (to include student characteristics, appropriate learning goals, teaching approaches, environmental arrangements, etc.);

(b) Use of assistive and instructional technology and natural, alternative and augmentative communication systems for students with autism;

(c) Behavior management and positive behavior supports for students with autism;

(d) Assessment and diagnosis of autism, and

(e) Field-based experience with students with autism

(3) This rule is to become effective July 1, 2002.

Specific Authority 229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. History - New 7-1-2002.

6A-4.0151 Specialization Requirements for Elementary Education (Grades K-6) - Academic Class

(1) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with a major in elementary education which includes teaching reading at the K-6 level, or

(2) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in elementary education to include the areas specified below:

(a) Courses in teaching reading in grades K-6 to include each of the following:

1. Understanding the reading process and effective reading instruction,

2. Recognition and assessment of reading problems, and

3. Prescription and utilization of appropriate methods and materials to increase reading performance; and

(b) Courses in each of the areas specified below:

1. Content and methods for teaching writing and language arts in grades K-6,

2. Content and methods for teaching science for grades K-6,

3. Content and methods for teaching social science for grades K-6,

4. Content and methods for teaching health education and physical education for grades K-6,

5. Content and methods for teaching art for grades K-6,

6. Content and methods for teaching music for grades K-6,

7. Content and methods for teaching mathematics for grades K-6, and

8. Materials for use in grades K-6 such as children's literature, multi-media materials, library materials, and the computer as an instructional tool.

(3) This rule is to become effective July 1, 2002, and supercedes the provisions of Rules 6A-4.014 and 6A-4.015, FAC., as of that date.

Specific Authority 229.053, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. History - New 7-1-2002.

6A-4.01795 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Exceptional Student Education (Grades K-12)--Academic Class

(1) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with a major in exceptional student education, special education, mental disabilities, specific learning disabilities, emotional disabilities, physically impaired or varying exceptionalities; or

(2) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in exceptional student education to include the areas specified below:

(a) Foundations of special education to include educational practices and development and characteristics of children with disabilities;

(b) Assessment and evaluation to include interpretation, analysis, and application of assessment results and alternate assessment strategies;

(c) Evaluation of student progress in acquiring, generalizing, and maintaining skills related to participation in educational settings;

(d) Instructional practices in special education to include selection and implementation of instructional practices and strategies and identification of accommodations and modifications;

(e) Relevant general education and special skills curricula selection;

(f) Assessing, designing, and implementing positive behavioral supports;

(g) Language development and communication skills to include normal sequence of expressive and receptive language development and identification of communication deficits and appropriate interventions;

(h) Skills to teach interpersonal interactions to include criteria for selecting instructional procedures for teaching personal care, interpersonal skills, self-advocacy skills, and adaptive life skills;

(i) Transition process to include development of desired postschool outcomes; and

(j) Effective methods of communication, consultation, and collaboration with students, families, administrators, and other education professionals.

(3) This rule is to become effective July 1, 2002, and supercedes the provisions of Rules 6A-4.0171, 6A-4.0173, 6A-4.0174, 6A-4.0175, and 6A-4.0177, FAC., as of that date.

Specific Authority 229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. History - New 7-1-2002.

6A-4.0243 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Foreign Language (Grades K-12)--Academic Class

(1) Specialization requirements for the following modern languages: Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

(a) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with an undergraduate or graduate major in one of the modern languages listed in Subsection (1) of this rule, or

(b) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in one of the modern languages listed in Subsection (1) of this rule to include credit in the areas specified below:

1. History or culture of the people who speak the language as their native language,
2. Literature in the language, and
3. Applied linguistics or second language acquisition, or

(c) Plan Three. A bachelor's or higher degree with specialization requirements completed in one (1) of the modern languages as specified in Paragraph (1)(a) or (b) of this rule, and twenty-one (21) semester hours in another one of the modern languages listed in Subsection (1) of this rule to include credit in the areas specified below:

1. History or culture of the people who speak the language as their native language, and
2. Literature in the language.

(2) Specialization requirements for Latin.

(a) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with an undergraduate or graduate major in Latin, or

(b) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in Latin to include credit in the areas specified below:

1. Latin vocabulary, grammar, and composition,
2. Latin literature, and
3. Roman culture, or

(c) Plan Three. A bachelor's or higher degree with specialization requirements completed in one (1) of the modern languages as specified in Paragraph (1)(a) or (b) of this rule, and twenty-one (21) semester hours in Latin to include credit in the areas specified below:

1. Latin vocabulary, grammar, and composition,
2. Latin literature, and
3. Roman culture.

Specific Authority 229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(6)(3) FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. History - New 7-1-90, Amended 7-17-2000, 4-17-2002.

6A-4.060 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Industrial Arts Technology Education (Grades 6-12)--Vocational Class

(1) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with an undergraduate or graduate major in industrial arts or technology education, or

(2) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in industrial arts or industrial technology education to include credit in four (4) of the ten (10) areas specified below:

(a) Materials and manufacturing processes technology to include credit in woods, metals, and man-made materials,

(b) Drafting and design technology,

(c) Energy and power technology,

(d) Graphics communications technology,

(e) Electronics technology,

(f) Construction technology,

(g) Transportation technology,

(h) Biomedical technology,

(i) Information technology, and

(j) Industrial systems technology such as robotics, laser technology, fiber optics, or other feedback controlling systems.

Specific Authority 229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(6)(3) FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. History - New 10-10-89, Amended 11-13-96, 7-17-2000, 4-17-2002.

6A-4.0283 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Physical Education (Grades K-12) - - Academic Class

(1) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with a teacher education major in physical education, or

(2) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in physical education to include the areas specified below:

(a) Twelve (12) semester hours in instructional design and content of physical education,

(b) Motor development,

(c) Kinesiology,

(d) Administration of physical education,

(e) Applied exercise physiology,

(f) Adaptive physical education or physical education for exceptional students,

(g) Care and prevention of human injuries, and

(h) Theory and practice in coaching.

(3) This rule is to become effective July 1, 2003, and supercedes the provisions of Rule 6A-4.028, FAC., as of that date.

Specific Authority 229.053, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. History - New 7-1-2003.

6A-4.01792 Specialization Requirements for the Prekindergarten Disabilities Endorsement--Academic Class.

(1) A bachelor's or higher degree with certification in any exceptional student education area, preschool education, primary education, prekindergarten/primary education, or early childhood education, and

(2) Twelve (12) semester hours in prekindergarten disabilities education to include the areas specified below:

(a) Six (6) semester hours in the development and implementation of individualized educational programs for the prekindergarten child with disabilities to include formal and informal evaluation techniques; developmentally appropriate curriculum, methods, and intervention strategies; teaming approaches to facilitate inclusion in appropriate learning environments; and multidisciplinary approaches and techniques for serving the child and the family;

(b) Three (3) semester hours in child development to include theories of the atypical child, the stages and sequences of development, and the impact of disabilities and biomedical risk factors on learning; and

(c) Three (3) semester hours in family collaboration and support to include family systems theory and interaction; community resources; service coordination; and transition.

Specific Authority 229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15, 231.17 FS. History - New 10-3-91, Amended 5-7-2002.

6A-4.01793 Specialization Requirements for Endorsement in Severe or Profound Disabilities --Academic Class

(1) A bachelor's or higher degree with certification in any area of special education; and

(2) Twelve (12) semester hours in the education of students with profound disabilities to include the areas specified below:

(a) Coursework in atypical child development and assessment of students with profound disabilities to include use of student assessment for individual educational planning and program planning;

(b) Coursework in interdisciplinary teaming to include available resources; the recognition of the role of parents, teachers, and other professionals; functional community-based curriculum; employability skills; and transition planning; and

(c) Completion of one of the areas as follows:

1. Six (6) semester hours to include:

a. Coursework in nature of autism and intervention strategies for educating students who are autistic to include student characteristics, appropriate learning goals, teaching approaches, and environmental arrangements; and

b. Three (3) semester hours of supervised field-based experience with students who are autistic; or

2. Six (6) semester hours to include:

a. Coursework in nature of profound mental disabilities and intervention strategies for educating students with profound mental disabilities to include student characteristics, appropriate learning goals, teaching approaches, and environmental arrangements, and

b. Three (3) semester hours of supervised field-based experience with students with profound mental disabilities; or

3. Six (6) semester hours to include:

a. Coursework in nature of deaf-blindness and intervention strategies for educating students who are deaf-blind to include student characteristics, appropriate learning goals, teaching approaches, and environmental arrangements, and

b. Three (3) semester hours of supervised field-based experience with students who are deaf-blind.

Specific Authority 229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(6) FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15, 231.17 FS. History - New 10-3-91, Amended 4-17-2002.

6A-4.0323 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Science (Grades 6-12) - Academic Class

(1) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with a major in general science, biology, chemistry, physics, or earth-space science, or

(2) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in science to include the areas specified below:

(a) Biology,

(b) Chemistry,

(c) Physics, and

(d) Earth-space science.

(3) This rule is to become effective July 1, 2003.

Specific Authority 229.053, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. History - New 7-1-2003.

6A-4.03321 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Social Science (Grades 6-12) - - Academic Class

(1) Plan One. A bachelor's or higher degree with a major in social science, social studies, history, political science, geography, sociology, economics, or psychology.

(2) Plan Two. A bachelor's or higher degree with thirty (30) semester hours in social science or social studies to include:

(a) Six (6) semester hours in United States history,

(b) Courses in the areas specified below:

1. Western civilization or European history,

2. Asian, African, Latin American, or Middle Eastern history,

3. Economics,

4. United States federal government,

5. Geography, and

6. Sociology or psychology.

(3) This rule is to become effective July 1, 2003.

Specific Authority 229.053, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. Law Implemented 229.053, 231.145, 231.15(1), 231.17(6), FS. History - New 7-1-2003.