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Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 15, 2006

TO: District Superintendents, University Presidents, Community College Presidents, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF)

FROM: John L. Winn

SUBJECT: Notification of Changes to the Teacher Certification Examinations

This memorandum is to inform you of changes in the competencies and skills for some of the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations. The changes will be presented in the form of an amendment to State Board Rule 6A-4.0021.

Changes resulting from regular reviews

Periodically, the Department of Education, in consultation with teachers and faculty from colleges of education and district specialists, reviews and updates competencies and skills for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE). This process has been conducted every one to three years for the past 16 years.

The changes proposed in this rule revision have resulted from such reviews and are included in the eleventh edition of *Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida* (to be adopted). The amendment proposes implementation of changes as follows:

Effective July 22, 2006, implementation of updated competencies and skills for ten FTCE subject area examinations:

- Agriculture 6-12
- ESOL K-12
- Middle Grades English 5-9
- Middle Grades General Science 5-9
- Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9
- Middle Grades Social Science 5-9

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- Technology Education 6-12 (formerly Industrial Arts/Technology Education 6-12)
- School Psychologist PK-12
- Speech 6-12, and Speech Language Impaired K-12

FTCE tests administered on July 22, 2006, will reflect the changes.

Changes resulting from reading initiatives

In accord with recommendations by Just Read, Florida! and the Florida Center for Reading Research, changes will be implemented in competencies and skills for the Professional Education Test and three FTCE subject area examinations: Elementary Education K-6, Pre-kindergarten/Primary PK-3, and Reading K-12.

As stated in my memorandum of July 19, 2005, changes to these competencies and skills involve the ways teachers of reading and language arts teach reading and language arts. As a result, these four examinations were revised ahead of the normally scheduled times for updates and will be ready for administration on October 21, 2006.

Summary

Committees of teachers, professors, district specialists, and school district administrators have reviewed and updated the competencies and skills for:

- Ten (10) subject area examinations—effective July 22, 2006
- The Professional Education Test—effective October 21, 2006
- Three (3) subject area examinations related to reading initiatives, Reading K-12, Elementary Education K-6, and Pre-kindergarten/Primary PK-3—effective October 21, 2006.

This notification is not required by statute or rule, but is provided as a courtesy to keep you informed. I hope the information is helpful to you as a partner in maintaining a qualified teacher workforce for the state of Florida.

JLW/CO/cas

cc: David Armstrong
Betty Blue
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