

**Technical Assistance Revised Certification Rule Requirements  
Educational Leadership, School Principal, and Foreign Language**
**Rule 6A-4.0081 Florida School Leaders Certification**

- ◆ **Text of Amended Rule (see attached)**
- ◆ **Implementation Notes:**

This is an overview rule that establishes the structure of school leaders' certification. The rule retains the current two levels of certification, Level I Educational Leadership and Level II School Principal. Language regarding a Level III certification is deleted since that certification coverage has never been implemented nor certification issued. Technical changes in statutory citations are made.

**Rule 6A-4.0082 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Educational Leadership-Administrative Class.**

- ◆ **Text of Amended Rule (see attached)**
- ◆ **Implementation Notes:**

The rule is amended as follows:

- 1) The requirement to document three years of teaching experience is eliminated to provide flexibility for preparation programs and school districts in determining the amount of teaching experience, if any, that may be required for programs or employment.
- 2) The educational leadership core curriculum is revised to align and match the principal leadership standards that have been approved by the State Board of Education. The new standards areas reflect the key competencies and skills that school leaders need today.
- 3) The multiple pathways for satisfying the core curriculum remain as options. One new option for satisfying the core curriculum is added: successful completion of a school district Educational Leadership training program that has been approved by the Department of Education. Rule 6A-5.081, Approval of School Leadership Programs includes the criteria for approval of a school district program. That rule is administered by the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development, and Retention. The contact is Kathy Hebda at [Kathy.hebda@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.hebda@fldoe.org) or 850-245-0435.
- 4) The course analysis pathway of thirty semester hours of graduate credit is revised to require the credit to be earned in the new core curriculum consisting of the ten principal leadership standard areas.
- 5) Obsolete selection, screening, and appointment language is removed and technical statutory citation changes are made.
- 6) The rule is effective July 1, 2007. This means that applications received on or after July 1, 2007, in the school district office or in Tallahassee are subject to meeting the new requirements for certification in Educational Leadership. Statements of Eligibility for certification in Educational Leadership based on

applications that were or are received prior to July 1, 2007, remain under the old rule requirements for the validity period of the statement.

**Rule 6A-4.0083 School Principal-Administrative Class.****◆ Text of Amended Rule (see attached)****◆ Implementation Notes:**

The rule is amended as follows:

- 1) The school principal certification program remains a school district level training program. However, the district training programs under the direction and guidelines from the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development, and Retention will need to be revised to align to the new principal leadership standards.
- 2) The requirement that the full-time employee be assigned to a specific position of assistant principal, intern principal, or interim principal for not less than one school year is revised to indicate the training program may be completed in positions such as those but possibly in other positions where the principal competencies may be fully demonstrated. The time required for completion is no longer one year but is open and flexible depending upon the individual requirements. The timeline may be more or less than one full year.
- 3) Obsolete language and invalid references to repealed statutes are eliminated.
- 4) The rule is effective July 1, 2007. Verification of completion of a district school principal certification program is through Form CT-125. Revision of existing programs under Rule 6A-5.081, including timelines for revision, will be administered by staff in the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention, who will be publishing technical assistance under separate cover. Contact Henry Pollock, Program Director, for more information at 850-245-0546 or [henry.pollock@fldoe.org](mailto:henry.pollock@fldoe.org).

**Rule 6A-4.0084 Professional School Principal-Administrative Class.**

The rule is repealed.

**Rule 6A-4.0243 Specialization for Certification in Foreign Language (Grades K-12)—Academic Class.****◆ Text of Amended Rule (see attached)****◆ Implementation Notes:**

The rule is amended as follows:

A fourth plan for meeting foreign language subject specialization requirements is added to subsection (1) of the rule. The new plan is a bachelor's or higher degree and documentation of successful completion of the Basic Program of the Defense Language Institute of the United States Department of Defense in one of these modern languages: Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. The amended rule is effective June 20, 2007.

**6A-4.0081 Florida School ~~Principal~~ Leaders Certification.**

The Florida school ~~principal~~ leaders certification program shall be performance-based and shall include ~~three (3)~~ two levels of certification based on demonstrated knowledge, performance, and results. The subject area examination required for issuance of the professional certificate as specified in ~~subparagraph 6A-4.004(1)(a)11, F.A.C.,~~ Section 1012.56(4)(c), Florida Statutes, shall be a requirement for Level 1 Certification.

(1) Level 1 Certification shall be designated Educational Leadership. Requirements for certification in educational leadership are listed in Rule 6A-4.0082, F.A.C., and include successful demonstration of knowledge in each of ~~eight (8) areas of public school administration~~ the principal leadership standards as described in paragraph 6A-4.0082~~(3)~~ (2)(a), F.A.C. Documentation of knowledge in each of the areas shall be by comprehensive written examination administered under the direction of the Department.

(2) Level 2 Certification shall be designated School Principal. Requirements for certification as school principal are listed in Rule 6A-4.0083, F.A.C., and include successful performance of the duties of the school principalship as described in Rule 6A-4.0083, F.A.C. Documentation of successful performance shall be by a comprehensive performance appraisal system approved by the district school board and the Department.

~~(3) Level 3 Certification shall be designated Professional School Principal. Requirements for certification as professional school principal are listed in Rule 6A-4.0084, F.A.C., and require the applicant to achieve superior results for a period of three (3) years or more in the same district as described in Rule 6A-4.0084, F.A.C. Documentation of superior results shall be by a comprehensive performance appraisal system approved by the district school board and the Department.~~

~~(4)~~ (3) The term principal as used in Rules 6A-4.0081 through 6A-4.0085, F.A.C., means a person assigned responsibility for administrative direction and instructional

leadership and supervision at an individual school as prescribed in ~~Section 228.041(10)(b)1.~~, Section 1012.01(3)(c)1., Florida Statutes. This does not include persons assigned these responsibilities in the role of assistant, intern, or interim principal.

~~(5)~~ (4) Educational Leadership may be shown on a temporary or professional certificate. School Principal and ~~Professional School Principal~~ may be shown on a professional certificate with other areas of certification or shown individually without other areas of certification.

~~(6)~~ (5) Certification coverage of school principal and ~~professional school principal~~ shall cover all positions covered by certification in administration, supervision, administration and supervision and educational leadership.

(6) The rule shall be effective July 1, 2007.

*Specific Authority* ~~229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(1)~~ 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. *Law Implemented* ~~231.02, 231.0861, 231.087(3)(e), 231.15, 213.17~~ 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. *History*—~~New 7-1-86, Formerly 6A-4.081, Amended 7-1-86, 10-31-88.~~

#### **6A-4.0082 Specialization Requirements for Certification in Educational Leadership - Administrative Class.**

(1) ~~Verification of three (3) years of successful teaching experience in an elementary or secondary school. Verification shall be by the chief executive officer of the school district, state supported school, or nonpublic school in which the teaching experience occurred.~~

(2) (1) A master's or higher degree awarded by a ~~standard~~ an acceptable institution as defined in ~~subsection~~ Rule 6A-4.003(1), F.A.C.

(3) (2) Successful completion of the Florida Educational Leadership Core Curriculum.

(a) The Educational Leadership core curriculum consists of the ~~eight (8) areas of educational administration specified below:~~ following principal leadership standard areas:

1. ~~Public School Curriculum and Instruction.~~ Instructional leadership.

2. ~~Organizational Management and Development.~~ Managing the learning environment.

3. ~~Human Resource Management and Development.~~ Learning, accountability, and assessment.

4. ~~Leadership Skills~~ Decision making strategies.

5. ~~Communication Skills~~ Technology.

6. ~~Technology.~~ Human resource development.

7. ~~Educational Law.~~ Ethical leadership.

8. ~~Educational Finance.~~ Vision.

9. Community and stakeholder partnerships, and

10. Diversity.

(b) Documentation of successful completion of the Florida Educational Leadership Core Curriculum shall be by one (1) of the following plans:

1. Successful completion of ~~an~~ a Department of Education approved Florida preservice program in educational leadership offered by a standard an acceptable institution as defined in subsection 6A.4.003(1), F.A.C. A newly-created state institution that meets approval requirements described in Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C. shall be considered as having met the accreditation requirement.

2. A graduate degree major in educational administration, administration and supervision, or educational leadership awarded by ~~a standard~~ an acceptable institution as defined in ~~subsection~~ Rule 6A-4.003(4), F.A.C.

3. A graduate degree with a major in a subject other than educational administration,

administration and supervision or educational leadership, and successful completion of ~~an~~ a Department of Education approved modified Florida program in educational leadership offered by a standard acceptable institution as defined in subsection 6A-4.003(1), F.A.C. A newly-created state institution that meets approval requirements described in Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., shall be considered as having met the accreditation requirement.

4. A graduate degree with a major in a subject other than educational administration, administration and supervision, or educational leadership awarded by an acceptable institution as defined in Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., and thirty (30) semester hours of graduate credit which includes credit in each of the ~~eight areas of educational administration~~ principal leadership standard areas specified in paragraph ~~(3)~~ (2)(a) of this rule and an internship or a course with associated field experience in educational leadership.

5. Successful completion of an Educational Leadership training program approved by the Department of Education and offered by a Florida public school district.

~~(4) Using the objective screening, selection, and appointment procedures of the district school board approved under Section 231.0861(2), Florida Statutes, persons holding certification in educational leadership, administration, or administration and supervision may be appointed to perform the duties of an intern assistant principal, assistant principal, intern principal or interim principal. A person holding the certification coverages listed above, school principal or professional school principal, may be appointed under district school board procedures to administrative positions which are not assigned to a school.~~

~~(5) Out-of-state experienced educational administrators who have a master's degree or higher in educational administration and supervision from a standard institution and who are employed for a district level position by a Florida school board shall be eligible~~

~~for a temporary certificate covering educational leadership.~~

(3) The rule shall become effective July 1, 2007.

*Specific Authority ~~229.053(1), 231.15(3), 231.17(1), 236.0811(2)(a)~~ 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented ~~231.02, 231.0861, 231.087(3)(e), 231.145, 231.15, 231.17, 236.0811~~ 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History—New 7-1-86, Formerly 6A-4.082, Amended 10-31-88, 9-12-89, 7-17-00.*

**6A-4.0083 School Principal - Administrative Class.**

To be eligible to receive certification as a school principal, an individual shall satisfy each of the following requirements:

(1) Hold a valid professional certificate covering educational leadership, administration, or administration and supervision.

(2) Document successful performance of the duties of the school principalship. These duties shall be performed in ~~an~~ a Department of Education approved district management training and development program school principal certification program pursuant to Rule 6A-5.081, F.A.C. designed and implemented consistent with the principal leadership standards approved by the State Board of Education. ~~with the program described in the publication titled, Preparing New Principals, 1985, approved by the Florida Council on Educational Management, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of this rule.~~ In addition, these duties shall:

(a) Be performed as a full-time employee of a district school board ~~and assigned to perform the duties of an assistant principal, intern principal, or an interim principal for a period of not less than one (1) full school year which is ten (10) months or more in length in a leadership position through which the candidate can fully demonstrate the competencies associated with the Florida Principal Leadership Standards.~~

(b) Be a formally planned professional development program designed and

implemented to prepare the individual to ~~become~~ effectively perform as a school principal.

(c) Be comprehensive of all the duties of the school principalship.

(d) Be performed under the direct supervision of a currently practicing school principal or district manager who has been approved by the district school board to serve as the supervising principal or manager for this program.

(3) Demonstrate successful performance of the competencies of the school principalship standards which shall be documented by the Florida district school superintendent based on a performance appraisal system approved by the district school board and the Department pursuant to Rule 6A-5.081, F.A.C. ~~The performance appraisal system shall be consistent with Guidelines for District Performance Appraisal Systems, January, 1985, approved by the Florida Council on Educational Management, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of this rule. A comprehensive performance appraisal system:~~

~~(a) Has clearly stated purposes.~~

~~(b) Promotes individual and organizational growth.~~

~~(c) Is used for personnel decisions.~~

~~(d) Is fair, equitable and legally sound.~~

~~(e) Provides for negotiation of expectations in relation to situations.~~

~~(f) Values appraisee input.~~

~~(g) Requires planning, feedback, and coaching.~~

~~(h) Has procedures for collection and retrieval of data for decision making.~~

~~(i) Links rewards to performance.~~

~~(j) Establishes criteria for assessment.~~

~~(k) Provides training and orientation of participants.~~

(4) An individual who holds a valid Florida Educator's Certificate covering



administration or administration and supervision issued prior to July 1, 1986 and served as a school principal prior to July 1, 1986 for not less than one (1) school year may apply for certification as a school principal under the provisions of Rule 6A-4.0085, F.A.C.

~~(5) Only individuals who meet the requirements for certification as a school principal shall be appointed by a district school board to the position of school principal; however, when deemed by the school board to be necessary and in the best interests of the students of the school, an individual who holds a certificate in educational leadership, administration or administration and supervision, including experienced out-of-state principals as provided by Section 231.0861(4), Florida Statutes, may on the basis of objective screening and appointment procedures as provided in Section 231.0861, Florida Statutes, be appointed as an interim principal for a period not to exceed one (1) year during which the individual must successfully demonstrate performance of the duties of the principalship as provided in subsection 6A-4.0083(2), F.A.C.~~

~~(6) Individuals who do not meet the requirements for certification as school principal but who hold valid certificates covering educational leadership, administration, or administration and supervision may, subject to the procedures established by each district school board, apply for vacancies of intern assistant principal, assistant principal, intern principal, interim principal, and other positions for which this certification coverage is valid.~~

~~(7) All principals, intern principals, and assistant principals appointed by each district school board shall be selected and appointed using an objective-based process which documents that the applicant possesses the competencies necessary for successful performance of the duties as required by Section 231.0861, Florida Statutes. The objective-based process for screening, selection, and appointment shall be consistent with Criteria for School District Screening, Selection, and Appointment Process for Principals and Assistant Principals, September, 1984, approved by the Florida Council~~

~~on Educational Management, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of this rule.~~

(5) The rule shall be effective July 1, 2007.

*Specific Authority ~~229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(1)~~ 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented ~~231.02, 231.0861, 231.087(3)(e), 231.15, 231.17~~ 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History—New 7-1-86, Formerly 6A-4.083, Amended 7-1-86, 10-31-88.*

**~~6A-4.0084 Professional School Principal - Administrative Class.~~**

~~Certification as professional school principal is a voluntary certification. This level of certification shall be awarded only to those Florida school principals who through the appropriate application of leadership, managerial, and instructional skills consistently produce superior results in the schools of which they perform the duties of the principalship. To be eligible to receive certification as a professional school principal, an individual shall satisfy each of the following requirements:~~

~~(1) Hold a valid professional certificate as a school principal.~~

~~(2) Document at least three (3) years of superior results as a principal in the same Florida public school district. This service must be performed subsequent to July 1, 1986.~~

~~(3) Superior performance of the principal shall be documented by the district school superintendent based on a comprehensive performance appraisal and performance management system approved by the district school board and the Department. The performance appraisal system and the performance management system shall be consistent with Guidelines for District Performance Appraisal Systems, January, 1985, and Prototype Performance Management System, May, 1984, approved by the Florida Council on Educational Management which are hereby incorporated and made a part of this rule.~~

The rule is repealed.

*Specific Authority ~~229.053(1), 231.15(1), 231.17(1)~~ FS. Law Implemented ~~231.02, 231.0861, 231.087(3)(e), 231.15, 231.17~~ FS. History—New 7-1-86, Formerly 6A-4.084, Amended 10-31-88.*

**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 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- or

(d) Plan Four. A bachelor's or higher degree and official documentation of successful completion of the Basic Program of the Defense Language Institute of the United States Department of Defense in one of the modern languages listed in subsection (1) of this rule.

(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 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law Implemented 1001.02, 1012.54, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History - New 7-1-90, Amended 7-17-2000, 4-17-2002.