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Dr. Tony Bennett
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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents,
SUS College of Education Deans,
Educator Preparation Institute Directors and Coordinators, and
Florida School District Staff Development Directors

FROM: Dr. Tony Bennett

DATE: June 5, 2013

SUBJECT: Florida Teacher Certification Examinations Updates

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you about updates to several Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) subject areas. Included in these updates are the State Board of Education (SBE) approval of changes to fees for the Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 and Elementary Education K-6 examinations; revised competencies and skills for four examinations; electronic publication of revised competencies and skills for four examinations; changes to the format for the Elementary Education K-6 examination; the administration of new test forms for three examinations; and the electronic publication of revised test information guides for three examinations.

Changes to Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 and Elementary Education K-6 Examination Fees

The SBE reviewed and approved changes to the structure of the Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 and Elementary Education K-6 examinations. The SBE approved revisions to the competencies and skills of the Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 examination in July 2012, and changed the examination to a four subtest format, effective July 2013. Due to these revisions, changes were made to the current fee structure. These fee changes do not increase the total fees already in place, but provide an examinee the opportunity to take only the subtests not passed at a reduced

rate. The current fee to take a subject area examination the first time is \$200 and the retake fee for a subject area examination is \$220. The proposed retake fee changes do not exceed the existing retake fees for examinations of equivalent lengths.

The following fee structure will apply to both the Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 and Elementary Education K-6 examinations:

- \$200 to take the full battery (four subtests) a first time,
- \$150 to retake one subtest,
- \$200 to retake two subtests,
- \$220 to retake three subtests and
- \$220 to retake the full battery.

The new fee structure for Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 will become effective beginning July 1, 2013. The new fee structure for Elementary Education K-6 will become effective beginning May 1, 2014.

Revisions to Competencies and Skills for Four Examinations

On April 16, 2013, the SBE reviewed and approved revised competencies and skills for four FTCE subject areas, English 6-12, Middle Grades English 5-9, Elementary Education K-6, and the General Knowledge examination, with an amendment to Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The competencies and skills for English 6-12 and Middle Grades English 5-9 were updated to reflect alignment with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts, as well as the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs). The competencies and skills for Elementary Education K-6 were updated to reflect alignment with the CCSS for mathematics and English language arts, the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for science and social science, as well as the FEAPs. The competencies and skills for the General Knowledge examination were updated to reflect alignment with the CCSS for mathematics and English language arts. The newly revised competencies and skills for English 6-12 and Middle Grades English 5-9 will be implemented in March 2014. The newly revised competencies and skills for Elementary Education K-6 and the General Knowledge examination will be implemented in May 2014.

Changes to Elementary Education K-6 Examination Structure

As part of the SBE's approval of the revisions to the Elementary Education K-6 competencies and skills, the SBE also approved changes to the structure of the Elementary Education K-6 examination. The previous structure of one test consisting of 225 multiple-choice items has now become four subtests comprised of a total of 220 multiple-choice items.

Committees of statewide subject matter experts recommended revisions to increase the rigor of the Elementary Education K-6 examination, resulting in four subtests covering content and content pedagogy in language arts and reading, social science, science and mathematics. The committees of subject matter experts were asked to ensure appropriate percentages of both

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subject area content and subject-specific content pedagogy knowledge in the new subtests in order to address current educational and instructional practices.

Additionally, on May 20, 2013, the Elementary Education K-6 competencies and skills for the four subtests were posted to the department's website at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/ftcecomp.asp>.

Administration of New Test Forms for Three Examinations

On January 27, 2012, the department issued a paperless memorandum announcing the administration of two revised examinations, effective July 1, 2013. The subject area examinations are Mathematics 6-12 and Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9. This memorandum may be accessed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6288/csrtcfse.pdf>. On November 29, 2012, the department issued a paperless memorandum announcing the administration of the revised Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3 examination, effective July 1, 2013. This memorandum may be accessed at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6579/ftceu.pdf>. The competencies and skills for these three examinations can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/ftcecomp.asp#seventeenth>.

Revised Test Information Guides for Three Examinations

New test information guides for the July 2013 Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3, Mathematics 6-12, and Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9 examinations can be found at http://www.fl.nesinc.com/FL_TIGS.asp. Please note that the test information guides for Prekindergarten/Primary PK-3, Mathematics 6-12, and Middle Grades Mathematics 5-9 examinations administered prior to July 2013 will remain on this website through the end of June 2013.

I encourage you to distribute the above links and information to the appropriate school district staff and faculty members. If you have any questions, please contact Süleyman Olgar at 850-245-0806 or suleyman.olgar@fldoe.org.

TB/ds

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