



Marva Johnson, *Chair*  
Andy Tuck, *Vice Chair*  
*Members*  
Gary Chartrand  
Ben Gibson  
Tom Grady  
Rebecca Fishman Lipsey  
Michael Olenick

**Contact Information:**

David C. LaJeunesse  
800-445-6739 or 850-245-5049  
[EdCert@fldoe.org](mailto:EdCert@fldoe.org)  
**DPS: 2017-95**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School District Assistant School Superintendents  
Private School Organization Contacts

**FROM:** Hershel Lyons

**DATE:** August 25, 2017

**SUBJECT: Informational Memo on House Bill 7069 Regarding Educator Certification (Chapter 2017-116, Laws of Florida)**

The 2017 Legislature passed Committee Substitute for House Bill 7069 (HB 7069). Governor Scott signed the bill on June 15, 2017, with an effective date of July 1, 2017. The legislation impacts statutes related to educator certification requirements. The current statutes are available at <http://laws.flrules.org/2017/116> (sections 8, 11 and 12). Summary information is provided in this memorandum; however, implementation of several provisions will require the development of State Board of Education (SBE) rules. Information regarding rule development is provided at the end of this memorandum.

**Temporary Certificates and Statements of Status of Eligibility**

HB 7069 amends section (s.) 1012.56(1)(b), Florida Statutes (F.S.), relating to processing timelines for Temporary Certificates. The department will be required to issue a Temporary Certificate to a qualifying applicant within fourteen (14) days from receipt of the issue request from an employer. Additionally, the employer will be notified electronically once the certificate has been issued.

Per s. 1012.56(1)(c), F.S., applicants for educator certification who are ineligible for either a Temporary or Professional Certificate will be provided an electronically issued Statement of Status of Eligibility (SOE). The SOE will include required information about pathways and routes to the Professional Certificate.

The amendment to s. 1012.56(7)(a)(3), F.S., permits temporary certificateholders who complete a *redesigned* Professional Development Certification and Education Competency Program (PDCP) after January 1, 2018, and earn highly effective or effective summative ratings to be exempt from the Professional Education Competency Examination. The exam is currently a requirement to satisfy mastery of professional preparation and education competence for issuance of a Professional Certificate. The department is required to adopt standards for the program redesign, which will be issued in the coming months.

One-year extensions to Temporary Certificates will be granted to temporary certificateholders who earn highly effective or effective ratings based solely on a student growth formula approved by the Commissioner of Education (currently, the value added model or VAM score) per s. 1012.56(7)(c), F.S. Written requests for extensions must be submitted in writing by the school district superintendent or governing authority of a university lab school, state-supported school or private school. The applicant must satisfy mastery of general knowledge prior to the request for an extension.

HERSHEL LYONS  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 25, 2017

Page Two

### **Renewal of a Professional Certificate**

HB 7069 amends s. 1012.585(3)(a), F.S., and creates s.1012.585(3)(f), F.S., relating to the requirements for the renewal of a Professional Certificate. Currently, educators seeking to renew their Professional Certificate must complete six (6) college credits (or equivalent 120 inservice points), including one (1) college credit (or inservice equivalent) in the instruction of students with disabilities. A minimum of three (3) of the credit hours (or inservice equivalent) must be in the specialization area shown on the certificate. The new provisions for renewal credit:

- Allow applicants to submit activities related to the new mentorship and induction program that is required for PDCP as of January 1, 2018, as well as training related to reading literacy for the renewal of any specialization area;
- Prohibit applicants with specialization areas that include reading instruction or intervention for students in grades K-6 from using general inservice credits for renewal of that subject area;
- Limit the use of professional growth opportunities to general renewal credit only and no longer specialization credit; and
- Require a minimum of two (2) college credits (or inservice equivalent) in specific reading instruction and intervention strategies for renewal of specialization areas on a Professional Certificate that include reading instruction or intervention for students grades K-6 with the beginning validity date of July 1, 2020, and after.

### **Review of Certification Coverages and Endorsements**

The amendment to s. 1012.586(1), F.S., requires that by July 1, 2018, and at least once every five years, the department will conduct a review of existing subject coverage and endorsement requirements in the elementary, reading and exceptional student education areas to recommend changes to the SBE regarding instruction and intervention strategies proven to improve student reading performance. The department will also provide recommendations for the consolidation of certification endorsement areas and requirements to the SBE.

### **Rule Development**

In order to implement the statutory revisions described in this memorandum, the department will initiate the rulemaking process to propose revisions for adoption by the SBE. For more information about certification rule revisions related to these legislative enactments, please visit the Educator Certification Rule Development website at <http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/ed-certification-rule-dev>. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Mr. David LaJeunesse at [David.LaJeunesse@fldoe.org](mailto:David.LaJeunesse@fldoe.org) or 850-245-5049.

HL/zh

cc: School District Human Resources Directors  
School District Personnel Directors  
School District Certification Partners  
School District Staff Development Directors  
Deans and Directors, Teacher Preparation Programs  
Educator Preparation Program Coordinators