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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School District Reading Contacts

**FROM:** Jacob Oliva

**DATE:** November 15, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Amendments to Rule 6A-4.0163, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Reading Endorsement Competencies, Rule 6A-4.0292, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for the Reading Endorsement - Academic Class, and Rule 6A-4.0051, F.A.C., Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate

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**DPS: 2019-189**

On November 15, 2019, the State Board of Education approved amendments to several rules that will implement recent legislative changes and provide flexible pathways to increase the number of qualified teachers of reading in Florida's schools.

### **Rule 6A-4.0163, F.A.C., Reading Endorsement Competencies**

This rule amendment incorporates the recommendations of the review of existing coverage areas required by section (s.) 1012.586, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The recommendation not to change the five competencies and subsequent indicators within the Reading Endorsement is maintained in this amendment; however, districts and teacher preparation programs must re-submit Reading Endorsement plans that place a greater emphasis on dyslexia, multi-sensory interventions and explicit instructional approaches. The revised district plans are due April 1, 2020. The *Just Read, Florida!* office (JRF!) will issue further guidance as to this process. The Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention (BERDR) will issue further guidance for the submission of revised teacher preparation program plans.

It is also important to note the rule now explicitly states teachers who have completed one of the competencies under a previous plan will not have to retake that competency under the new plan.

### **Rule 6A-4.0292, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for the Reading Endorsement - Academic Class**

Amendments to Rule 6A-4.0292, F.A.C., incorporate the additional requirements of s. 1012.586, F.S., which require the department to consider the award of a reading endorsement to teachers who hold certificates issued by certain types of internationally recognized organizations or programs these organizations approve. The rule now outlines the process the department will take to identify these organizations, certificates and programs. Once reviewed, the department will maintain a list of approved organizations, certificates and programs on its website.

JACOB OLIVA  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Amendments to Rule 6A-4.0163, F.A.C., Reading Endorsement Competencies, Rule 6A-4.0292, F.A.C., Specialization Requirements for the Reading Endorsement - Academic Class, and Rule 6A-4.0051, F.A.C., Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate  
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The rule is also amended to allow teachers who receive a passing score on the Reading Subject Area Exam to be awarded the Reading Endorsement without completing the previously required coursework. The Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) will issue additional guidance on this topic.

### **Rule 6A-4.0051, F.A.C., Renewal and Reinstatement of a Professional Certificate**

As required by s. 1012.585(3)(f), F.S., the department is required to identify coverage areas that must earn specific credit for renewal, which include providing reading instruction or intervention for any students in kindergarten through grade 6.

Teachers with the following coverage areas must take two credit hours (or 40 hours of professional development) in the use of explicit, systematic and sequential approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness and implementing multisensory intervention strategies in order to renew professional certificates with a beginning validity period of July 1, 2020.

Coverage areas include: Elementary Education (K-6), Prekindergarten/Primary Education (age 3 through grade 3), Elementary Education (grades 1-6), Primary Education (grades K-3), English (grades 1-6), Middle Grades English (grades 5-9), Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum (grades 5-9), English (6-12), Reading (K-12), Reading (Endorsement), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (grades K-12).

Coursework that meets these criteria and the 20-hour Exceptional Student Education requirement may count for both purposes. Additionally, coursework earned during the five years immediately preceding the current validity period, and not used for a previous renewal, may be used for this purpose as well. The Bureau of Educator Certification (BEC) will issue additional guidance on this topic.

While the aforementioned changes represent the most significant changes, they are not inclusive of all amendments. The department encourages you to read the rules in their entirety at the websites below.

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?id=6A-4.0163>

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?id=6A-4.0292>

<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?id=6A-4.0051>

JO/rm