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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Deans/Directors of Teacher Preparation Programs  
School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jacob Oliva

**DATE:** July 16, 2021

**SUBJECT: Informational Memo on House Bill 7011, Student Literacy, and House Bill 1159, Education**

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**DPS: 2021-96**

The 2021 Florida Legislature passed [House Bill 7011](#), Student Literacy, and [House Bill 1159](#), Education, which Governor DeSantis recently signed. This guidance only addresses legislation that specifically modifies teacher preparation programs which include Initial Teacher Preparation programs, Educator Preparation Institutes, Professional Development Certification Programs and the William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders.

House Bill 7011, Student Literacy, revises requirements for certain instructional personnel and professional development programs. It includes the addition of the reading endorsement in certain program areas in all teacher preparation programs, revises qualifications of district personnel supervising these programs and modifies entry requirements for Initial Teacher Preparation programs.

House Bill 1159, Education, expands the options for the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to issue a professional certificate, modifies the Uniform Core Curricula (UCC), requires Educator Preparation Institutes to expand training to district personnel and permits certain qualifications to satisfy the Professional Education Test. Individuals with advanced degrees from accredited postsecondary institutions will satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement. In order to implement the statutory revisions described in this memorandum, the FDOE will initiate the rulemaking process to propose revisions for adoption by the State Board of Education. Below is a summary of the changes by bill as a result of the 2021 Legislative session.

### Educator Preparation Institutes (EPIs)

- House Bill 7011
  - Effective July 1, 2022, candidates entering a teacher preparation program in the 2022-2023 academic year and earning certification in a coverage areas identified in section (s.) 1012.585(3)(f), Florida Statutes (F.S.), must successfully complete all competencies for a reading endorsement.
    - This impacts the following coverage areas per State Board Rule 6A-4.0051, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.):
      - Elementary Education (grades K-6)
      - Prekindergarten-Primary Education (Age 3 through grade 3)
      - Middle Grades English (grades 5-9)
      - English (grades 6-12)
      - Reading (grades K-12)
      - Reading (endorsement)
      - English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (grades K-12)
    - Bill lines 632-638
  - Effective for the 2022-2023 school year, school district personnel and instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during internships in kindergarten through grade 3 or students who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program for a certificate area identified pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f), F.S., must hold a certificate or endorsement in reading.
    - Bill Lines 582-587
- House Bill 1159
  - Effective July 1, 2021, the UCC has been modified to include:
    - Strategies appropriate for the early identification of students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and the referral of such student to a mental health professional for support.
    - Strategies to support the use of technology in education and distance learning.
    - Bill Lines 271-276
  - Effective July 1, 2021, institutions may offer instruction and professional development for part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s. 1012.39(1)(c), F.S. In addition, completion of career education training may be conducted through the local school district inservice master plan or through an educator preparation institute approved by the FDOE pursuant to s. 1004.85, F.S. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Lee Chipps-Walton at [Lee.Chipps-Walton@fldoe.org](mailto:Lee.Chipps-Walton@fldoe.org).
    - Bill Lines 230-232 and 420-421

- Effective July 1, 2021, institutions will provide the option for educators who complete an approved EPI program and earn a highly effective rating per their performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, F.S., to satisfy the Professional Education Test requirement.
  - Bill Lines 305 and 420-422
- Effective July 1, 2021, completion of a master's degree or higher from an accredited postsecondary institution recognized by the Department of Education will satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
  - Bill Lines 381-384

### Initial Teacher Preparation Programs

- House Bill 7011
  - Effective July 1, 2021, the General Knowledge Test requirement is no longer required for entry into teacher preparation programs; however, it must be satisfied in order to complete the program.
    - This removes the optional ten percent waiver for admission requirements.
    - Minimum requirement of 2.5 entry grade point average remains.
    - Bill Lines 547-561
  - Effective July 1, 2022, candidates entering a teacher preparation program in the 2022-2023 academic year and earning certification in a coverage areas identified in s. 1012.585(3)(f), F.S., must successfully complete all competencies for a reading endorsement.
    - This impacts the following coverage areas per State Board Rule 6A-4.0051, F.A.C.:
      - Elementary Education (grades K-6)
      - Prekindergarten-Primary Education (Age 3 through grade 3)
      - Middle Grades English (grades 5-9)
      - English (grades 6-12)
      - Reading (grades K-12)
      - Reading (endorsement)
      - English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (grades K-12)
    - Bill Lines 527-533
  - Effective for the 2022-2023 school year, school district personnel and instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during internships in kindergarten through grade 3 or students who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program for a certificate area identified pursuant to s. 1012.585(3)(f), F.S., must hold a certificate or endorsement in reading.
    - Bill Lines 582-587

- House Bill 1159
  - Effective July 1, 2021, the UCC has been modified to include:
    - Strategies appropriate for the early identification of students in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge and the referral of such student to a mental health professional for support.
    - Strategies to support the use of technology in education and distance learning.
    - Bill Lines 174-179
  - Effective July 1, 2021, completion of a master's degree or higher from an accredited postsecondary institution recognized by the FDOE will satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
    - Bill Lines 381-384

#### Professional Development Certification Program (PDCPs)

- House Bill 7011
  - Effective July 1, 2022, candidates entering a teacher preparation program in the 2022-2023 academic year and earning certification in a coverage areas identified in s. 1012.585(3)(f), F.S., must successfully complete all competencies for a reading endorsement.
    - This impacts the following coverage areas per State Board Rule 6A-4.0051, F.A.C.:
      - Elementary Education (grades K-6)
      - Prekindergarten-Primary Education (Age 3 through grade 3)
      - Middle Grades English (grades 5-9)
      - English (grades 6-12)
      - Reading (grades K-12)
      - Reading (endorsement)
      - English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (grades K-12)
    - Bill Lines 1403-1409
- House Bill 1159
  - Effective July 1, 2021, completion of a master's degree or higher from an accredited postsecondary institution recognized by the FDOE will satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement.
    - Bill Lines 381-384
  - There are portions of the UCC that will be presented to the State Board of Education to modify Rule 6A-5.066 F.A.C., reflecting the statutory changes mentioned above. These changes are still in the developmental stages and the department will provide updates when they become available.
    - Revisions that may impact PDCPs because of House Bill 1159 will be covered in the upcoming rule change.

William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders

- House Bill 7011
  - Effective July 1, 2021, the William Cecil Golden Professional Development Program for School Leaders must include support for instructional personnel who provide reading instruction and interventions.
    - Support must include training for school administrators on classroom observation and teacher evaluation practices aligned to evidence-based reading instruction and intervention strategies.
    - Bill Lines 1551-1555
- House Bill 1159
  - Effective July 1, 2021, the term “educational leader” means teacher leaders, assistant principals, principals or school district leaders.
    - Bill Lines 472-475
  - The collaborative network will include school districts, state-approved educational leadership programs, regional consortia, charter management organizations, and state and national professional leadership organizations.
    - Bill Lines 476-478
  - The goal of the network leadership program is to:
    - Enhance the role of the educational leader;
    - Maintain a clearinghouse and disseminate data-supported information related to:
      - Continued enhancement of student achievement and learning;
      - Civic education;
      - Coaching and mentoring;
      - Mental health awareness;
      - Technology in education;
      - Distance learning; and
      - School safety.
    - Increase the quality and capacity of educational leadership development programs; and
    - Support evidence-based leadership practices through dissemination and modeling at the preservice and inservice levels.
    - Bill Lines 487-504
  - The collaborative network will be offered through multiple delivery systems, updated to include:
    - University or local educational leadership academies
    - Educational leadership coaching and mentoring
    - Bill Lines 505-514

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In the coming weeks, the department will provide guidance and technical assistance related to any changes in law that impact our stakeholders.

For additional questions or concerns regarding the information provided, please contact Abbey Stewart, Bureau Chief of Educator Recruitment, Development, and Retention, at [Abbey.Stewart@fldoe.org](mailto:Abbey.Stewart@fldoe.org).

JO/as