

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

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DPS: 2013-179

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

**FROM:** Pam Stewart

**DATE:** December 20, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Official Documentation of Degrees and Credits for Educator Certification

At the November 2013, State Board of Education meeting, revisions were adopted to the following rules under Chapter 6A-4, for Educator Certification that pertain to general provisions, degrees, programs and credits. These rule revisions become effective on January 1, 2014.

Through revisions to Certification Rule 6A-4.002, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Educator Certification will now be authorized to accept college course credits awarded on an official transcript from the American Council on Education (ACE) for demonstrating completion of certification requirements. The Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 1664, enacted as Chapter 2013-185, within which section 8 amends s. 1012.56(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt this provision in rule to accept ACE transcripts. The rule revision also clarifies that teaching a college course for which credit is awarded, excluding courses for academic remediation, may be accepted to meet a certification course requirement.

Revised language in Certification Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., clarifies that an official transcript is the acceptable form of documentation required by Educator Certification for acceptance of degrees or college credits from accredited or approved institutions within the United States or from ACE. Official transcripts are accepted from institutions of higher learning accredited by one of the regional accrediting associations, accredited by an agency approved by the United States Department of Education, or approved by the department as having a quality program.

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The revised language in Certification Rule 6A-4.003, F.A.C., adopts an original credential evaluation report as the acceptable form of documentation required for degrees or college credits from institutions of higher learning outside the United States. Reports may be prepared by accredited institutions in the United States or agencies approved by the department. Approved agencies include those holding current membership in good standing in a nationally recognized association of credential evaluation services, such as the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or the Association of International Credential Evaluators (AICE), or those providing evidence of compliance with good ethical standards of practice, as specified in the rule. These revised provisions for foreign academic training are intended to simplify the official records required of foreign-trained educators to satisfy certification eligibility requirements.

For more information about these rule revisions, please visit the Educator Certification website at [www.fldoe.org/edcert](http://www.fldoe.org/edcert). If you have questions or need assistance related to these rule changes for Educator Certification, please contact Mr. David LaJeunesse at [David.LaJeunesse@fldoe.org](mailto:David.LaJeunesse@fldoe.org) or 850-245-0431.

PS/dlj

cc: Human Resources Directors  
Personnel Directors  
Certification Partners