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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
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Private School Organization Contacts

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: July 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Informational Memo on House Bill 433 (Chapter 2014-32)

The 2014 Legislature passed Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 433 (HB 433) – an act relating to education. Governor Scott signed this bill on May 12, 2014, with an effective date of July 1, 2014. The legislation impacts statutes related to the preparation, professional development, certification and assignment of instructional personnel.

The department’s 2014 Legislative Review (<http://www.fldoe.org/gr/pdf/LegislativeReview2014.pdf>) summarizes education-related legislation, including HB 433 (pages 19-22). The purpose of this memo is to expand on and further clarify specific sections of HB 433, particularly those related to educator certification.

In general, HB 433 clearly restates the methods by which a candidate for educator certification may demonstrate the requirements for mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competence, for issuance of a professional certificate. It also expands the banking provision for renewal of a professional certificate and the requirements for reinstatement of an expired professional certificate.

General Knowledge

Beginning July 1, 2014, new applicants for an initial Florida Educator’s Certificate may no longer use a passing score on the College-Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) earned prior to July 1, 2002, to satisfy the General Knowledge (GK) requirement. A statewide committee of subject matter experts proposed, and the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted, revised GK competencies and skills. Administration of the new GK test began May 2014. These comprehensive changes to the GK have increased the exam’s rigor and complexity, assessing the skills and knowledge all candidates need to begin effective careers as professional educators and aligning all GK subtests with adopted content standards. Accordingly, the obsolete CLAST has now been eliminated as an acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of general knowledge for educator certification.

Supplemental Examinations

House Bill 433 authorizes the SBE to adopt passing scores on national or international examinations to satisfy either general or subject area knowledge. Examinations will most often be considered as supplemental to the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) program to assess a subject for which a Florida subject area examination has not already been developed or approved. When a potential

examination is identified, the department will coordinate a comprehensive study to determine if the exam assesses comparable content and relevant standards to the adopted FTCE competencies and skills. The study must also identify passing scores at approximately the same level of rigor to establish examinee competence to meet the Florida threshold for beginning effective teacher candidates. The department will initiate a study to evaluate the comparability of the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning portions of the Graduate Record Examination to the GK competencies and skills.

For more information on the FTCE program, please visit <http://www.fl.nesinc.com/>.

College Teaching Experience

House Bill 433 made some revisions to the option for a candidate to document two semesters of successful teaching in an accredited or approved postsecondary institution to satisfy some certification requirements.

Effective July 1, 2014, HB 433 requires new applicants who document acceptable college teaching experience to also achieve a passing score on the Florida Professional Education Test to satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirement.

Due to the addition of language regarding full-time and part-time college teaching experience, the department will initiate the rulemaking process to propose revisions for adoption by the SBE to clarify implementation of this certification pathway.

Renewal and Reinstatement Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities

House Bill 433 expands the banking provision for certificate renewal to include training in teaching students with disabilities (SWD). In addition, SWD credits earned while holding a temporary certificate may be used toward renewal of the first professional certificate. The department will initiate the rulemaking process to propose revisions for adoption by the SBE to further clarify implementation of this provision.

House Bill 433 also requires SWD credit for reinstatement of an expired professional certificate.

Requirements for Supervising Preservice Field Experiences Outside Florida for Online Programs

House Bill 433 created two exceptions to section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, (F.S.), regarding the requirements that must be met by instructional personnel (cooperating teacher) who supervise or direct teacher preparation candidates during field experience courses or internships in which candidates demonstrate an impact on student learning growth. Both exceptions affect only Florida teacher preparation programs where the entire program is online or through distance learning.

- For instructional personnel who supervise candidates during field experiences in another state in which the candidate's impact on student learning growth is measured, the law permits the out-of-state cooperating teacher to hold a valid professional certificate issued by the state in which the field experience takes place.
- For instructional personnel who supervise candidates during field experiences on a United States military base in another country in which the candidate's impact on student learning growth is measured, the law permits the cooperating teacher to hold a valid professional teaching certificate issued by the Department of Defense (DOD) or a state or territory of the United States.

Note that in both exceptions all other requirements cited in law must be met by the instructional personnel supervising these candidates.

Questions regarding these exceptions should be directed to Ms. Eileen McDaniel, Chief, Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention (Eileen.McDaniel@fldoe.org or 850-245-0562).

Other Revisions

Statutory revisions in HB 433 require the SBE to adopt administrative rules to implement amendments made to sections 1012.2315(2), F.S., for the assignment of teachers to schools graded “D” and “F,” and 1012.56(6), F.S., for educator certification requirements in the mastery of professional preparation and education competence.

Revisions to section 1012.98, F.S., permit a consortium of charter schools that meet statutory criteria to develop a professional development system that includes a master inservice plan for inservice activities. Charter school consortia that have questions regarding this change should contact Dr. John Moore in the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention (John.Moore@fldoe.org or 850-245-0546).

For more information about certification rule revisions related to HB 433, please visit the Educator Certification Rule Development website at www.fldoe.org/edcert/crcur.asp. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Mr. David LaJeunesse at David.LaJeunesse@fldoe.org or 850-245-0431.

PS/dlj

cc: Human Resources Directors
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