

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
January 17, 2017

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1012.56(9), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1012.56(9), Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to specify, by rule, the examination scores required for the issuance of a professional certificate and temporary certificate. Such rules must define examination competencies and establish uniform evaluation guidelines and passing scores for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE).

Rule 6A-4.0021, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), fulfills the above requirement by providing a description, by reference, of the competencies and skills to be assessed. These competencies and skills are included in the document "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida." As changes to general knowledge, professional education, and subject area competencies are made, a new edition of this document must be developed and incorporated, by reference, into the rule.

In addition, Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C., fulfills the above requirement by providing passing scores for each of the FTCE examinations. The passing scores listed within the rule provide examinees the minimum number of items that must be answered correctly to achieve a passing score. The new passing scores for two (2) subject area examinations (Preschool Education [Birth–Age 4] and Reading K–12) will become effective March 1, 2017, and will remain the passing scores for all succeeding test forms for these areas.

The "Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Fourth Edition," will update the competencies and skills for one (1) subject area examination: Art K–12. The competencies and skills for Art K–12 have been updated to reflect alignment with the state-approved CPALMS Visual Art standards, as well as the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.

A description of the processes used to make these updates follows.

- **Art K–12.** Beginning in June 2016, committee members consisting of university/college professors, district curriculum coordinators, and teachers began to evaluate and revise the competencies and skills for this subject area examination as guided by Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C. The committees recommended changes to the competencies and skills to align to the state-approved Visual Art K–12 standards, as available in CPALMS, and the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices. Committee members represented all regions of the state, various school districts, educator preparation programs, and instructional philosophies. Committee members were

selected through a statewide recruiting effort and via recommendations from the Florida Department of Education's Division of Public Schools and the Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development, and Retention.

Additionally, the Department will publish the final Art K–12 competencies and skills on the Department's website in early 2017, at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/postsecondary-assessment/index.stml>. The publishing of these new competencies and skills is intended to provide Florida colleges of education and educator preparation institutes time to apply the changes needed to prepare students to meet the new expectations embodied in the revised examination, as well as to benefit potential examinees.

To recommend new passing scores, the Department convened representative statewide committees of public school teachers, university/college professors, and district curriculum coordinators with expertise in the affected areas. These committees used an established and widely accepted standard-setting methodology to recommend passing scores. The passing score changes are necessary to reflect expectations of examinee performance with respect to the alignment of the test with the updated SBE approved area competencies and skills, as well as new educator standards for effectiveness. The passing scores are reflective of the level of ability required for an individual to be considered a beginning effective teacher candidate. Based on the committee recommendations, the Department then analyzed the outcomes considering pass rates, test form difficulty, subgroup performance, and potential impacts on certification needs. By applying appropriate measurement and psychometric standards, the Department is recommending new passing scores for the indicated FTCE examinations. Table 1 shows the recommended passing scores (number correct), recommended percentage correct, and the projected pass rates for two (2) subject area examinations.

For example, for the Reading K–12 examination, it is recommended to set the minimum required number correct needed to 85 out of 120 items (71%). Based on the sample used to set these standards, it is projected that the first-time examinee passing rate for this subject area examination will be approximately 43%. The projected changes in passing rates are due to the increases in the required percentage correct and the increased difficulty of the examinations as a result of the increased rigor of the competencies and skills.

Table 1. Recommended Passing Scores and the Projected Pass Rates

FTCE Examination	Recommended Number Correct	Recommended Percentage Correct	Projected Passing Rates
Preschool Education (Birth-Age 4)	85/119	72%	45%
Reading K-12	85/120	71%	43%

Note: Projected passing rates (for the recommended cut scores) were calculated for first-time examinees taking the base forms in May–July 2016.

Rule amendments are requested to adopt the 24th edition of the document, “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida,” effective October 1, 2017, and the adoption of new passing scores for two (2) subject area examinations which will become effective March 1, 2017.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-4.0021, F.A.C., Florida Teacher Certification Examinations. Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, 24th edition (under separate cover)

Facilitator/Presenter: Juan Copa, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement

6A-4.0021 Florida Teacher Certification Examinations.

(1) Scope. This rule governs the written examinations for teacher certification. Additional requirements for certification are specified in Chapter 6A-4, F.A.C.

(2) Description of the examinations and competencies to be demonstrated.

(a) The Florida Teacher Certification Examinations shall be developed by the Commissioner of Education.

(b) The written examinations shall include subtests of English language skills, reading, writing, mathematics, professional skills, and subject area specialty. These examinations may contain multiple-choice questions and questions requiring the examinee to write an answer or demonstrate a proficiency.

(c) The following competencies are to be demonstrated by means of the written examinations:

1. Between June 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017 ~~Before September 1, 2017~~, the general knowledge competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Second Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective June 1, 2016. ~~Between~~ ~~Beginning~~ September 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017, the general knowledge competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Third Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07092>), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective September 1, 2017. Beginning October 1, 2017, the general knowledge competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Fourth Edition,”(DOS link), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective October 1, 2017. These publications may be obtained by contacting the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

2. Between June 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017 ~~Before September 1, 2017~~, the professional education competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Second Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective June 1, 2016. ~~Between~~ ~~Beginning~~ September 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017, the professional education competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Third Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07092>), which is incorporated by reference and made part

of this rule effective September 1, 2017. Beginning October 1, 2017, the professional education competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Fourth Edition.”(DOS link), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective October 1, 2017. These publications may be obtained by contacting the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

3. Between June 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017 ~~Before September 1, 2017~~, the subject area competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Second Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-05515>), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective June 1, 2016. ~~Between~~ ~~Beginning~~ September 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017, the subject area competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Third Edition,” (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07092>), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective September 1, 2017. Beginning October 1, 2017, the subject area competencies and skills contained in the publication “Competencies and Skills Required for Teacher Certification in Florida, Twenty-Fourth Edition.”(DOS link), which is incorporated by reference and made part of this rule effective October 1, 2017. These publications may be obtained by contacting the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement, Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400.

(3) through (8) No change.

(9) Scoring of the subject area specialty examinations.

(a) The Commissioner of Education shall recommend to the Florida State Board of Education for its approval a passing score or scores required for each subject area specialty examination. Such required scores shall take effect when designated by the State Board.

(b) through (v) No change.

(w) Effective January 1, 2015, the passing score for the subject area specialty examinations listed below shall be a scaled score of at least two hundred (200). This scaled score shall be equivalent to the following raw scores on the test forms used for standard setting and administered between April and June 2014:

SUBJECT	SCORE
Computer Science K-12	85 correct items
<u>Engineering and</u> Technology Education 6-12	89 correct items

(x) through (y) No change.

(z) Effective March 1, 2017, the passing score for the subject area specialty examinations listed below shall be a scaled score of at least two hundred (200). This scaled score shall be equivalent to the following raw scores on the test forms used for standard setting and administered between May and July 2016:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
<u>Preschool Education (Birth–Age 4)</u>	<u>85 correct items</u>
<u>Reading K–12</u>	<u>85 correct items</u>

(aa) (z) The Commissioner of Education shall review the passing score for each of the General Knowledge Subtests, each of the subject area specialty examinations, and the professional education test not less than once every five (5) years and determine whether to recommend to the State Board of Education to maintain or change the existing passing scores.

(10) Score reports for the general knowledge essay, english language skills, reading, and mathematics subtests, professional education test, and subject area examinations.

(a) A properly authenticated score report is defined as the original score report issued directly by the test administration agency without any qualification, reservation, or irregularity.

(b) The examinee shall be sent an authenticated score reports as described in paragraph 6A-4.0021(10)(a), F.A.C. In addition, a copy of the score report may be issued by the test administration agency without a fee to one (1) Florida institution (i.e., college, university, or professional district certification program) ~~college or university and to one (1) Florida school district~~ provided the examinee identifies the recipient or recipients of the score report at the time of registration.

(c) through (e) No change.

(11) through (12) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1012.55(1), 1012.56, 1012.59 FS. Law Implemented 1012.55, 1012.56, 1012.59 FS. History–New 8-27-80, Amended 1-11-82, 1-6-83, 5-3-83, 10-5-83, 10-15-84, Formerly 6A-4.021, Amended 12-25-86, 4-26-89, 4-16-90, 7-10-90, 4-22-91, 10-3-91, 8-10-92, 11-28-93, 4-12-95, 7-1-96, 9-30-96, 10-1-99, 7-17-00, 7-16-01, 3-24-02, 7-16-02, 3-24-03, 7-21-03, 12-23-03, 7-13-04, 5-24-05, 5-23-06, 5-21-07, 5-19-08, 7-21-08, 7-9-09, 6-22-10, 6-21-11, 11-22-11, 8-23-12, 5-21-13, 10-22-13, 2-25-14, 12-23-14, 7-28-15, 10-26-15, 7-26-16.