

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Consent Item

July 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6A-6.0982, Florida Approved Online Course Providers

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1003.499(2), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1003.499, Florida Statutes, sets forth the requirements to be designated as an approved course provider for the purposes of offering online courses. The department is responsible for accepting and reviewing applications. This rule outlines the process through which organizations and individuals become approved to offer Florida approved online courses. The purpose of this rulemaking is to update the Online Course Provider Approval Application (VSP-03), Application for Currently Approved Online Course Provider (VSP-04), and Online Course Provider Renewal Approval Application (VSP-05) for clarity and efficiency, including:

- Deleting redundant questions
- Rephrasing questions for clarity

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-6.0982, F.A.C. Form VSP-03, Online Course Provider Approval Application; Form VSP-04, Application for Currently Approved Online Course Provider; Form VSP-05, Online Course Provider Renewal Approval Application (under separate cover)

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6A-6.0982 Florida Approved Online Course Providers.

(1) Purpose. Section 1003.499(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.) requires the Commissioner of Education to annually publish online a list of providers approved to offer Florida approved courses.

(2)(a) Application Form. Form VSP-03, Online Course Provider Approval Application (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-08704>), for becoming an approved online course provider, will be used for those online course providers applying for approved status from the Department of Education. Form VSP-03 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule to become effective August 2018 ~~October 2017~~.

(b) Application Form. Form VSP-04, Application for Currently Approved Online Course Provider (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-08705>), for a currently approved online course provider to add new courses to their approval, will be used for online course providers applying for additional online course approval status from the Department of Education. Form VSP-04 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule to become effective August 2018 ~~October 2017~~.

(c) Application Form. Form VSP-05, Online Course Provider Renewal Approval Application (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-08706>), for renewing an approved provider, will be used for those online course providers applying for renewal approval status from the Department of Education. Form VSP-05 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule to become effective August 2018 ~~October 2017~~. Copies of Form VSP-03, VSP-04, and VSP-05 may be obtained by contacting the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

(3) Application. The applications to become an approved online course provider, renewal, or for new course approval will be available at <https://floridacourseprovider.fluidreview.com> beginning September 1 of each year for the following school year and must be accessed and submitted electronically. The deadline for filing the applications is September 30.

(a) Pursuant to Section 1003.499(3)(a)5., F.S., the applicant must possess prior, successful experience offering online courses to elementary, middle, or high school students as demonstrated by quantified student learning gains or student growth in each subject area and grade level provided for consideration as an instructional program option. Learning gains data for at least two (2) ~~one (1)~~ complete school years from one (1) of the following sources must be submitted for each course submitted for approval in this application:

~~1. At least two (2) years of cohort data from a sState-administered summative assessment Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), approved to meet federal (e.g., ESSA) accountability requirements, Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, including state-administered End-of-Course (EOC) assessments (Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology 1, U.S. History, and Civics). The data will be sufficient if the proficiency rate meets or exceeds the state mean (students must attain a statewide standardized assessment score of Achievement Level 3 or higher) as stated in, Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C., which is incorporated by reference herein. A copy of Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C., may be obtained by contacting the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399. Equivalent subgroup credit recovery or remediation course data may be considered in determining the equivalency with the state mean, if provided.~~

For course subjects not addressed by state assessments:

~~2. At least two (2) years of cohort data from nNationally standardized summative achievement tests or nationally standardized interim assessments with multiple assessments to measure learning gains (nationally norm-referenced tests approved by the Department pursuant Rule 6A-6.0960, F.A.C.). The demonstrated gains will be sufficient if either proficiency rate or gains rate meet or exceed the national mean for the specific test. Equivalent subgroup or credit recovery or remediation course data may be considered in determining the equivalency with the national mean, if provided. At a minimum, Provider must provide data from category 1 or 2 in language arts and mathematics. The following evidence of learning gains must be submitted for all other subject areas and grade levels:~~

~~3. At least two (2) years of cohort data from teacher developed End-of-Course assessments or semester examinations; or Proctored EOC assessments or semester examinations. Electronic proctoring with appropriately identified students is acceptable. Demonstrated gains will be sufficient if the pass rate on the proctored EOC examination meets or exceeds seventy (70%) percent.~~

~~4. At least two (2) years of cohort data from pre- and post-assessments delivered for a course, which assessment is not covered under another category.~~

~~(b) through (c) No change.~~

~~(4) through (7) No change.~~

Rulemaking Authority 1003.499, 1008.31 FS. Law Implemented 1003.499, 1008.31 FS. History–New 12-23-14, Amended 7-28-15, 10-30-16, 10-17-17,