

CHAPTER 2024-141

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1291

An act relating to educator preparation programs; amending ss. 1004.04, 1004.85, 1012.56, and 1012.562, F.S.; prohibiting the courses and curriculum of teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leader preparation programs from distorting certain events and including certain curriculum and instruction; requiring teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, professional learning certification programs, and school leader preparation programs to afford candidates certain opportunities; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, to read:

1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for teacher preparation programs.—

(2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.

(e) Teacher preparation program courses:

1. May not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

(2)(a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or approved as described in State Board of Education rule may seek approval from the Department of Education to create educator preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all of the following:

1. Professional learning instruction to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification or recertification requirements.

2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties.

3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training requirements.

4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers as provided in this section in order to increase routes to the classroom for professionals who hold a baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were not education majors.

5. Instruction and professional learning for part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s. 1012.39(1)(c).

6. Instruction that does not distort significant historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities. Courses and instruction within the educator preparation institute must afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (c), paragraph (a) of subsection (7) is amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (8) of that section, to read:

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

(7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

(a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant who fulfills one of the following:

1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in subsection (2).
2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12:
 - a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h).
 - b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.
 - c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree.
 - d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination.

e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional education competency examination required by state board rule.

3. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h) and completes a professional learning certification program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph ~~(8)(c)~~ ~~(8)(b)~~ or an educator preparation institute approved by the department pursuant to s. 1004.85. An applicant who completes one of these programs and is rated highly effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing score on the professional education competency examination in order to be awarded a professional certificate.

At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

(8) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

(b) Professional learning certification program courses:

1. May not distort significant historical events or include curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.

Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1012.562, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

1012.562 Public accountability and state approval of school leader preparation programs.—The Department of Education shall establish a process for the approval of Level I and Level II school leader preparation programs that will enable aspiring school leaders to obtain their certificate in educational leadership under s. 1012.56. School leader preparation programs must be competency-based, aligned to the principal leadership standards adopted by the state board, and open to individuals employed by public schools, including charter schools and virtual schools. Level I programs lead to initial certification in educational leadership for the purpose of preparing individuals to serve as school administrators. Level II programs build upon Level I training and lead to renewal certification as a school principal.

(4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONS; REQUIREMENTS.—

(a) School leader preparation programs may not distort significant historical events or include curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

(b) School leader preparation programs must afford candidates the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor May 2, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 2, 2024.