

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

F. PHILIP HANDY, *Chairman*
T. WILLARD FAIR, *Vice Chairman*
Members
DONNA G. CALLAWAY
ROBERTO MARTINEZ
PHOEBE RAULERSON
KATHLEEN SHANAHAN
LINDA K. TAYLOR

John L. Winn
Commissioner of Education



Contact Person:
Beverly Gregory
850/245-0431
beverly.gregory@fldoe.org
K12: 2006-43

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Certification Contacts

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: March 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Update on Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements of No Child Left Behind

This memorandum is sent in support of Strategic Imperative One, that each Florida classroom is staffed by a highly effective teacher. The purpose is to clarify Florida's plan for teachers to meet the highly qualified requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and to advise you of changes in requirements provided in a Florida Title II monitoring visit report issued by the USDE. There are a few changes that impact the earlier technical assistance information issued by the Florida Department of Education relating to highly qualified teachers (HQT). In addition to a revised middle/secondary HQT chart showing new social science HQT requirements, a revised HQT chart for regular elementary teachers that includes an American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) or National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certificate as an option for some teachers to meet the HQT subject testing requirement are included. The latest guidance document issued by the USDE relating to highly qualified teacher requirements that supersedes all prior guidance is available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/guidance.pdf>.

Please see the attached technical assistance pages for more detailed information related to the highly qualified requirements of NCLB. These changes will require a passing score on the appropriate social science subject area exam or a HOUSSE plan(s) for the specific social science content area of the course(s) either history, economics, geography, or civics/ government (political science) rather than a HOUSSE plan for comprehensive social science. If you have questions regarding this memorandum or the technical assistance information, you may contact Beverly Gregory.

CPY/b

CHERI PIERSON YECKE, PH. D.
CHANCELLOR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Technical Assistance Paper NCLB Highly Qualified Teachers**Teachers of Courses in History, Economics, Geography, and Civics/Government (Political Science)**

NCLB does not identify social studies as a core academic area but rather identifies four specific social science areas: history, economics, geography, and civics/government. The latest USDE guidance document now requires teachers who have composite social science certification to be deemed highly qualified in the specific social science area(s) they are teaching. This new information was confirmed in a Title II monitoring report for Florida in which Florida was cited for failure to appropriately implement the highly qualified requirements for social science teachers.

Effective July 1, 2003, certification in the separate areas of social science for grades 6-12 is no longer offered in Florida. Social Science 6-12, Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, or Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 are the comprehensive social science certification subject areas which are appropriate for teaching the social science areas respective of the course and grade level as shown in the sections of the *Course Code Directory* for grades 6-12. The comprehensive Social Science 6-12, Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, and the Integrated Middle Grades Curriculum 5-9 certification areas are not new and have been available for several years. The separate areas of social science certification previously issued will continue to be shown on valid Florida educator certificates as long as the certificates are maintained. Therefore in Florida, some teachers will have certification in one or more of the separate social science areas and/or in the comprehensive social science 6-12 or 5-9 certification areas. Please see the information for the categories of social science teachers as follows:

- ◆ **Teachers with Valid Certificates in a Separate Social Science Area:**
Teachers who hold a valid certificate in one or more of the separate 6-12 social science areas are deemed highly qualified for teaching courses in that specific social science area(s).
- ◆ **Teachers with Valid Certificates in Social Science 6-12, Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, or Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9:**

The subject area examinations (SAE) for the Social Science 6-12, Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, and Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 subject areas are comprehensive tests that include demonstration of competence in the areas of history, economics, geography, and political science (civics and government). Thus, anyone who has passed the appropriate Social Science 6-12, Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, and Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 subject area examination for the courses taught in combination with a valid appropriate social science Temporary or Professional Certificate has demonstrated subject competence for highly qualified status for the four separate social science areas identified in NCLB.

For teachers who have not passed the appropriate level comprehensive Social Science SAE, including many veteran "not-new" teachers, it will be necessary to document a passing SAE score on the appropriate Social Science 6-12, Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, or Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 exam or complete a HOUSSE plan for each of the separate social science subject areas taught for either history, economics, geography, and/or civics/government (political science).

**No Child Left Behind
Updated Chart for Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements –
Elementary (revised)**

To Be Highly Qualified, Teachers in Core Academic Subjects Must Satisfy <u>Three</u> Requirements	New Elementary Teachers (No Teaching Experience)	Not New - Experienced Elementary Teachers
1. A bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution	A bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution	A bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution
2. A valid full state certificate	A valid Florida three-year Temporary or five-year Professional Certificate	A valid Florida three-year Temporary or five-year Professional Certificate
3. Subject matter competency for each core academic subject assigned	<p>Option 1: A valid Temporary Certificate appropriate for the grade level(s) assigned and a passing score on the Florida K-6, 1-6, or PK-3 subject area exam (SAE) appropriate for the grade level(s) assigned or in lieu of the SAE, a valid ABCTE Passport Certificate in Elementary Education. (An ABCTE certificate establishes eligibility for certification in Elementary Education).</p> <p>Option 2: A valid Florida Professional Certificate appropriate for the grade level(s) assigned. (Requires a passing Florida SAE or reciprocity from another state).</p>	<p>Option 1: A valid Temporary Certificate or Professional Certificate appropriate for the grade level(s) assigned and a passing score on the Florida K-6, 1-6, or PK-3 subject area exam (SAE) appropriate for the grade level(s) assigned or in lieu of the SAE, a valid ABCTE Passport Certificate in Elementary Education or a valid Early or Middle Childhood Generalist NBPTS Certificate appropriate for the grade levels. (An ABCTE or NBPTS Certificate also establishes eligibility for certification in the subject).</p> <p>Option 2: A valid Temporary or Professional Certificate and meeting the requirements for a HOUSSE plan that is appropriate for the grade level(s) assigned.</p>
<p>Note: The obsolete Early Childhood Education and Primary Education K-3 certification levels may meet these requirements for some teachers.</p>		

Note: All new teachers of core academic subjects in Title I school-wide or targeted assistance programs hired after the first day of school in the 2002-03 school year must meet the highly qualified requirements. All other teachers of core academic subjects must meet highly qualified requirements no later than June 30, 2006.

No Child Left Behind
Updated Chart for Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements
Middle and Secondary Teachers (revised)

Note: All new teachers of core academic subjects hired after the first day of school in the 2002-03 school year in Title I school-wide or targeted assistance programs must meet the highly qualified requirements. All other teachers of core academic subjects must meet highly qualified requirements no later than June 30, 2006.

To Be Highly Qualified, Teachers in Core Academic Subjects Must Satisfy Three Requirements	New Middle/Secondary Teachers (No Teaching Experience)	Not New - Experienced Middle/Secondary Teachers
1. A bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution	A bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution	A bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited or approved institution
2. A valid full state certificate	A valid Florida three-year Temporary or five-year Professional Certificate	A valid Florida three-year Temporary or five-year Professional Certificate
3. Subject matter competency for each core academic subject assigned	<p>Option 1: A valid Temporary or Professional Certificate appropriate for the subject(s)* and grade level(s) assigned.</p> <p>* A certificate in Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, Social Science 6-12, or Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 used to teach social science courses also requires a passing score on the appropriate level social science subject area exam.</p>	<p>Option 1: A valid Temporary Certificate or Professional Certificate appropriate for the subject(s)* and grade level(s) assigned.</p> <p>* A certificate in Middle Grades Social Science 5-9, Social Science 6-12, or Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 used to teach social science courses requires a passing score on the appropriate level social science subject area exam or a HOUSSE plan for the specific social science subject area for history, economics, political science, or geography.</p> <p>Option 2: A valid Temporary Certificate or Professional Certificate in a subject area other than the area assigned <u>and</u> meeting the requirements for a HOUSSE plan appropriate for the subject(s) and grade level(s) assigned. (The HOUSSE plan for social science must be for the specific social science area of history, economics, geography, or political science).</p>