

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1004.04,
 3 revising requirements for entrance into certain
 4 teacher preparation programs; amending s. 1012.585,
 5 F.S.; limiting the types of training for which a
 6 teacher may earn inservice points; amending s.
 7 1012.98, F.S.; requiring district school boards to
 8 calculate an amount for use by teachers for
 9 professional development; requiring the Commissioner
 10 of Education to submit a report by December 1, 2020,
 11 on the feasibility of implementing a certain program;
 12 plan providing effective dates.

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

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 16 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 17 1004.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
 19 teacher preparation programs.—

20 (3) INITIAL STATE PROGRAM APPROVAL.—

21 (b) Each teacher preparation program approved by the
 22 Department of Education, as provided for by this section, shall
 23 require students, at a minimum, to ~~meet, at a minimum,~~ the
 24 ~~following as prerequisites for admission into the program:~~

25 1. Have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0

26 | scale for the general education component of undergraduate
 27 | studies or have completed the requirements for a baccalaureate
 28 | degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
 29 | from any college or university accredited by a regional
 30 | accrediting association as defined by State Board of Education
 31 | rule or any college or university otherwise approved pursuant to
 32 | State Board of Education rule.

33 | 2. Demonstrate mastery of general knowledge ~~sufficient for~~
 34 | ~~entry into the program~~, including the ability to read, write,
 35 | and perform in mathematics, by passing the General Knowledge
 36 | Test of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination or, for a
 37 | graduate level program, obtain a baccalaureate degree from an
 38 | institution that is accredited or approved pursuant to the rules
 39 | of the State Board of Education.

40 |
 41 | ~~Each teacher preparation program may waive these admissions~~
 42 | ~~requirements for up to 10 percent of the students admitted.~~
 43 | ~~Programs shall implement strategies to ensure that students~~
 44 | ~~admitted under a waiver receive assistance to demonstrate~~
 45 | ~~competencies to successfully meet requirements for certification~~
 46 | ~~and shall annually report to the Department of Education the~~
 47 | ~~status of each candidate admitted under such a waiver.~~

48 | Section 2. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (3) of
 49 | section 1012.585, Florida Statutes, to read:

50 | 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional

51 certificates.—

52 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the
53 following requirements must be met:

54 (g) A teacher may earn inservice points only once during
55 each 5-year validity period for any mandatory training topic
56 that is not linked to student learning or professional growth.

57 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1012.98, Florida
58 Statutes, is amended to read:

59 1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act.—

60 (5) Each district school board shall provide funding for
61 the professional development system as required by s. 1011.62
62 and the General Appropriations Act, and shall direct
63 expenditures from other funding sources to continuously
64 strengthen the system in order to increase student achievement
65 and support instructional staff in enhancing rigor and relevance
66 in the classroom. Each district school board shall calculate a
67 proportionate share of professional development funds for each
68 classroom teacher and allow each classroom teacher to use up to
69 25 percent of the proportionate share of Instructional Staff
70 Training Services on professional development that addresses the
71 academic needs of students or an identified area of professional
72 growth for the classroom teacher. The department shall identify
73 professional development opportunities that require the
74 classroom teacher to demonstrate proficiency in a specific
75 classroom practice.

76 | A school district may coordinate its professional development
77 | program with that of another district, with an educational
78 | consortium, or with a Florida College System institution or
79 | university, especially in preparing and educating personnel.
80 | Each district school board shall make available inservice
81 | activities to instructional personnel of nonpublic schools in
82 | the district and the state certified teachers who are not
83 | employed by the district school board on a fee basis not to
84 | exceed the cost of the activity per all participants.

85 | Section 4. Pathways in Technology Early College High
86 | School (P-TECH) program.—

87 | (1) By December 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Education
88 | shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
89 | Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Board of Governors,
90 | and the State Board of Education a report with recommendations
91 | that address the feasibility of implementing the Pathways in
92 | Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program, or a
93 | similar program, in Florida. The P-TECH program must:

94 | (a) Incorporate secondary and postsecondary education with
95 | workforce education and work experience through a flexible 6-
96 | year integrated model.

97 | (b) Allow students to earn a high school diploma, an
98 | associate degree, and applicable industry certifications and
99 | gain work experience within 6 years after enrolling in the 9th
100 | grade.

101 (c) Have an open enrollment policy that encourages a
102 diverse student body, including students from low-income
103 families and first-generation college students.

104 (d) Support student success through flexible class
105 scheduling, advising and mentoring components, and other wrap-
106 around services.

107 (e) Provide seamless articulation with Florida's
108 postsecondary institutions.

109 (2) The report must, at a minimum, include the following:

110 (a) Timelines for implementing a P-TECH program, or a
111 similar program, as described in subsection (1), including
112 courses of study which support program completion in 4 to 6
113 years and which meet regional workforce demand.

114 (b) A funding model that provides the P-TECH program, or a
115 similar program, at no cost to students. The funding model may
116 incorporate K-12, postsecondary, and workforce funding, grants,
117 scholarships, and other funding options.

118 (c) Partnerships with industries and businesses, which
119 include private investment, work-based training, internships,
120 and priority placement for job opportunities upon graduation.

121 (d) Recommendations for modifications, if any, to the
122 school and school district accountability requirements of s.
123 1008.34, Florida Statutes.

124 (3) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming
125 a law and shall expire on December 1, 2020.

126 Section 5. Except as otherwise provided and except for
127 this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a
128 law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2020.