

New Certification Renewal Requirements

Recently passed Senate Bill 1108 impacts renewal requirements for holders of a Florida Professional Teaching Certificate.

Requirements:

- Effective July 1, 2014, Legislation requires one (1) semester hour of college credit or its equivalent twenty (20) inservice master plan points in teaching students with disabilities for renewal of a professional teaching certificate.
- Applies to all professional certificates regardless of subjects on certificate.
- Applies to all holders of a Florida professional educator's certificate regardless of assignment or position, including teachers, administrators, retirees, and charter school employees.

Questions and Answers Regarding New Legislation on Renewal of Professional Certificates

Recently passed Senate Bill 1108 impacts renewal requirements for holders of a Florida Professional Teaching Certificate, stating that effective July 1, 2014 an applicant for renewal of a professional educator's certificate must earn at least one (1) college credit or equivalent inservice (20) points in teaching students with disabilities.

Questions and Answers

1. What is the requirement?

The legislation requires one (1) semester hour of college credit which is equivalent to twenty (20) inservice points in teaching students with disabilities.

2. Will this renewal requirement apply to professional certificates expiring June 30, 2014?

The requirement depends on when the completed application is submitted for renewal. The credit/inservice will not be required for educators who submit applications prior to July 1, 2014. However, an application whose certificate expires on June 30, 2014, who submits application for late renewal on or after July 1, 2014, will be expected to have the credit/inservice in teaching students with disabilities.

3. My certificate expires in 2015, can I apply now?

Educators with a professional certificate expiring 6/30/2014 or 6/30/2015 that have satisfied all renewal requirements may submit an application for renewal now.

4. What type of courses and/or inservice activities will satisfy this requirement?

Acceptable courses or inservice have not yet been determined. They will be based on the State Board of Education's revision of the renewal rule. The Curriculum & Instruction Department will advise as soon as these are determined.

5. Will this renewal requirement apply to all professional certificates covering any subject?

Yes, all professional certificates regardless of subject will need to satisfy this requirement.

6. Is this requirement only for teachers?

No, this requirement applies to all holders of a Florida professional teaching certificate regardless of job assignment or position (i.e., administrators, retirees, charter school teachers).

7. Is this a one-time renewal requirement or will this credit be required for every future renewal cycle?

The Florida Department of Education expects this requirement to be in effect for every future professional certificate renewal cycle.

8. Has the 120 master plan points or 6 semester hours required for renewal increased?

No, this requirement does not add to the total hours required for renewal.