



Florida Department of Education Webinar

April 17, 2020



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
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Today's Topics

- Student Teaching Interns
- Remote/Virtual Options
- Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE)
 - Spring 2020 graduates
 - General Knowledge (GK) Examination
 - General questions/concerns
 - Fees & Waivers
- Florida Educational Leadership Exam (FELE)
- Continued Approval Process & Site Visits
- Professional Development Certification Programs (PDCP)



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Educator Preparation

Introduction

- The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is committed to partnering with stakeholders to address the concerns and challenges created by COVID-19.
- The FDOE is also committed to operating from a place of grace and compassion as we engage in this process together.

Student Teaching Interns

- Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C., does not require a minimum number of hours or weeks for student teacher internships.
- Institutions have latitude to make necessary adjustments to ensure candidates achieve mastery of the program requirements.
- FDOE's primary focus is supporting institutions in their efforts to ensure that all teacher candidates master the necessary content and skills for program completion and professional preparedness.

Remote and virtual experiences to meet field experience requirements

- Institutions may utilize remote and virtual options for teacher candidates to meet field experience requirements.
- FDOE strongly encourages reaching out to peers within the postsecondary field for ideas and suggestions to best utilize remote and virtual experiences to fulfill program requirements.

Educator preparation program candidates scheduled to graduate during Spring/Summer 2020 and need to complete one or more FTCE

- Institutions may issue a degree without the state-approved program seal.
- This will allow graduates to apply for and obtain a temporary educator certificate and begin their teaching career.
- Once the graduate has passed all FTCEs, institutions may revise the transcript to reflect the state approved program seal allowing graduates to upgrade to a professional certificate.

Educator preparation program candidates scheduled to graduate during Spring/Summer 2020 and need to complete one or more FTCE

- In the coming weeks, FDOE will partner with institutions to identify those candidates who graduated without the state approved seal and who were granted a temporary certificate.
- FDOE will then ensure that they are not charged the upgrade fee for the professional certificate when they are awarded the state approved seal on their transcripts.

Admission to educator preparation programs for Summer/Fall 2020 - General Knowledge (GK) exam

- Programs may utilize the 10% waiver available through s. 1004.04, F.S.
- FDOE strongly recommends that institutions ensure that candidates are registered to take the GK exam and utilize the FTCE fee waiver currently in place.

General Knowledge (GK) exam

- FDOE recognizes that some programs may exceed the 10% waiver for Fall 2020 admissions.
- We will continue to remain flexible and collaborative in our approach to support both institutions and teacher candidates.
- We will partner with institutions to find the most appropriate solution moving forward.

General Knowledge (GK) exam

- For EPI programs, the GK is not an admission requirement according to statute, although some institutions may choose to make this a specific program requirement.
- Applicants can qualify for the Temporary Certificate through one of these pathways:
 1. Bachelor's Degree with a Passing Score on the [FL Subject Area Exam](#) (for subjects that require no more than a Bachelor's)
 2. Bachelor's Degree with a Valid Certification Issued by [American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence](#) (ABCTE)
 3. Bachelor's Degree with a Major in the Content Area
 4. Bachelor's Degree with Required Courses and 2.5 GPA in the Content Area

Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE)

- Institutions should work with graduates to ensure that they take the FELE as soon as it becomes available.
- Institutions may then confer degrees for these individuals once all program requirements have been satisfied.

Continued Approval Site Visit Schedule

- FDOE is adjusting the 2020-2021 site visit schedule.
- Institutions that had continued approval site visits scheduled for Spring of 2020 will be rescheduled for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

Professional Development Certification Program (PDCP)

- PDCP completers who receive a *highly effective rating* as determined by a performance evaluation are not required to take the professional education competency exam to be awarded a professional certificate.
- In absence of a 2019-2020 evaluation, an applicant may use his/her *highly effective* rating from a prior school year to satisfy this requirement.
- If an evaluation is not available, the applicant will need to pass the professional education competency exam.

Professional Development Certification Program (PDCP)

- Districts have latitude to make necessary adjustments to ensure candidates achieve mastery of the program requirements.
- We support the efforts and adjustments made by districts to ensure that all teacher candidates master the necessary skills and content for professional preparedness.



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Florida Teacher Certification Examination Fee Waiver

Florida Teacher Certification Examination Fee Waiver

- Effective April 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE) candidates may register for FTCE exams free of charge.
- This offer applies to all examinations provided for in Rule 6A–4.0021, F.A.C.
- It does not apply to the FELE.
- Vouchers will remain valid for up to one year from the date of registration; however, test site availability through May 1, 2020, is currently limited due to state and national closures.

Florida Teacher Certification Examination Fee Waiver

- As testing sites reopen, Florida examinees will be scheduled for testing on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **As of April 1, 2020**, you may visit <http://www.fl.nesinc.com/> to register for free examinations through midnight, July 31, 2020.
- Please note that any FTCE registrations made **prior** to April 1, 2020, are subject to current fees; however, examinees who have paid these fees may cancel registrations up to 24 hours prior to their scheduled test time and receive a full refund.

Florida Teacher Certification Examination Fee Waiver

- Beginning April 1, 2020, and continuing through 11:59 PM Eastern on July 31, 2020, you may apply the voucher during the appointment scheduling stage of the registration process.
- On the **Enter Payment and Billing** screen, instead of entering your credit or debit card information, you will click **Add Voucher or Promo Code**, enter the voucher code **FTCESpring2020**, and click the **Apply** button.
- If you don't enter the voucher, the system will require payment.

Florida Teacher Certification Examination Fee Waiver

- You must complete the registration and scheduling process before 11:59 PM Eastern on July 31, 2020, but your actual test appointment can be up to one year from your original order date.
- First-attempt and retake fees will be waived between April 1, 2020, and 11:59 PM Eastern on July 31, 2020.
- There is no limit on the number of times you can use the voucher between April 1, 2020, and 11:59 PM Eastern on July 31, 2020.
- The fee waiver does not apply to the score verification service.

Florida Teacher Certification Examination Fee Waiver

- If you registered and are scheduled to test on or after March 17, 2020, but prior to the availability of the voucher beginning on April 1, 2020, you will automatically receive a refund.
- If your original payment was made by credit or debit card, a refund will be processed to your credit or debit card.
- You are not eligible for a refund if you registered and scheduled an examination appointment that occurred prior to March 17, 2020.
- Examinees who have registered and paid fees for examinations yet to take place and are not already canceled may cancel registrations up to 24 hours prior to their scheduled test time and receive a full refund.

General Testing Questions

- We are currently researching and working with various partners, including Pearson, to develop some strategies to address the high volume of test takers.
- We recognize the importance of this concern for teacher candidates and institutions, and more information will be forthcoming.

Thank you

- The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is committed to working through the challenges that still remain in the weeks and months ahead.
- Grace and compassion



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Questions & Answers

<http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.shtml>



www.FLDOE.org

