



The Teacher Advisor

HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES — RECRUITMENT & EDUCATOR QUALITY

Dear Teachers,

For educators whose FL Professional Educator's Certificate **expires on June 30, 2019**, it's time to tally your inservice points and determine whether you've got all you need to renew. Missing something? **FDLRS Sunrise** (fdlrs.polk-fl.net) is a good source of free inservice for teachers.

If you have a FL Temporary Educator's Certificate that will **expire on June 30, 2019**, double check your Statement of Eligibility (SOE) to make sure you complete all requirements listed – and then apply for your Professional Educator's Certificate.

Good luck!

Your Certification Advisors

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Have a topic you'd like to see covered? Contact us!

(Contact information can be found on the last page.)

NEW-TEACHER SEMINARS

5:30–8:00PM

Dinner provided

Topics include:

- SAO's
- Google Classroom
- Conscious Teaching

For questions, contact:
jessica.solano@polk-fl.net

Nov. 8, 2018

Jim Miles Professional
Development Center
5204 US 98
Lakeland, FL 33812

Dec. 13, 2018

Haines City Sr. High
2800 Hornet Dr.
Haines City, FL 33844

Jan. 17, 2019

Jim Miles Professional
Development Center
5204 US 98
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SPOTLIGHT:

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The United States Constitution stipulates that providing education is the responsibility of each state. However, in the 1960s, in response to funding inequities between school districts, Congress determined the federal government must help ensure that students living in poverty had access to a good education and materials. The result was the Elementary and Secondary Schools Act of 1965 (ESEA), which offered states additional monies for this purpose – distributed to schools primarily through Title I. The Act must be reauthorized every five years.

In 2001, ESEA became No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Then with its 2015 reauthorization, the name changed again – this time to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Federal funding is still allocated to schools through the Title programs, but along with revising its name, some requirements of the law were modified. Polk County Public Schools has adopted procedures to accommodate these changes.

NOTABLE CHANGES

Step aside, NCLB... ESSA has taken the stage! But no need to panic; items of interest to teachers are summarized below:

- ▶ “Highly Qualified Teacher” (HQ or HQT) requirements were eliminated in 2016-17.
- ▶ Under ESSA, teachers and paraeducators in Title 1 schools must still have appropriate certification/credentialing, which includes

ESE teachers assigned to teach general education courses to ESE students. Be aware: Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) rules regarding certification of instructional personnel apply to all teachers, not just those assigned to Title 1 schools.

- The NCLB term “unqualified” has been replaced with “ineffective” under ESSA.
- “Core academic subjects” have been eliminated, thus expanding the use of Title II funds for professional development.

MONITORING ESSA “COMPARABLE METHODS” FOR ESE TEACHERS:

Effective with the 2018-19 school year, ESE Teachers must be certified in Exceptional Student Education K-12 and in the assigned content area/s they are

assigned to teach or support. If you do not currently have all required certification coverages on your certificate, you must demonstrate subject matter expertise through a District-approved “Comparable Method” per Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C) 6A-1.0503.

“Comparable Methods” identified and agreed upon in consultation with ESE and PEA are as follows:

- 1) **Subject Area Test** (passed within the last 10 years), in the assigned content area
- 2) **15+ Semester Hours** of earned credit or a Minor in the field (with earned credit from an accredited college or university)
- 3) **2 years Occupational Experience** in the content area confirmed through evaluations with a rating of “Highly Effective” or “Effective” and/or verification of documented Prior Teaching Experience

4) **Out of State Verification** of Subject Area Test OR

5) **Grandfathered HOUSSE**

For information on this topic from the State of Florida, visit: www.flrules.org/Gateway/View_notice.asp?id=20301050.

ESSA POP QUIZ

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 4)

- 1) **True/False:** The Elementary and Secondary Schools Act must be reauthorized every ten years.
- 2) **True/False:** Federal funds received are distributed through the Title programs – mainly through Title I & II.
- 3) **True/False:** School districts must adopt procedures that accommodate changes in federal requirements in order to remain in compliance with the Act.
- 4) **True/False:** The most recent reauthorization is called No Child Left Behind.

USE FUL TIPS

- When renewing your teaching certificate online through VERSA, indicate you are an employee of **District 53**.
- In order for your records to be as up to date and accurate as possible, you should **notify the Certification Office when/if you take and pass an additional Florida Teacher Certification Exam** that is not yet reflected on your teaching certificate. The FLDOE does not notify the District when you have passed an exam or when you add a subject to your teaching certificate.

DEAR AUNT AGONY

HELP! I was 'highly qualified' under 'No Child Left Behind'. Do I have to prove my qualifications again?

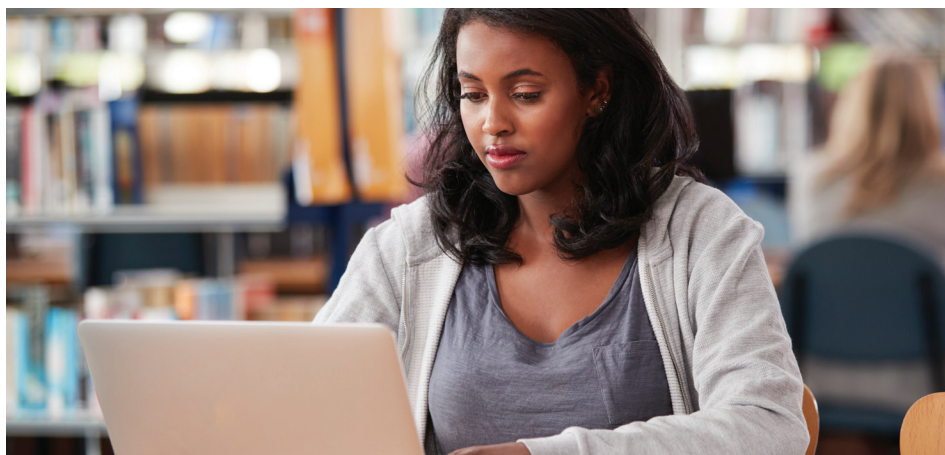
There's a bit of a change under ESSA, dearie. It's state certification that makes you 'qualified' to teach a subject now. So, if you've got either a FL temporary or professional certificate with coverage in the subject you teach, you may take a deep breath – you're qualified!

– Aunt Agony

As an ESE teacher, verifying "HQ" allowed me to teach many courses. Now what?

Good news! PCPS Certification Specialist Migdalia Alvarez, with guidance from FL DOE, helps teachers transition from NCLB 'HQ' to the ESSA 'Comparable Methods' allowance. To contact Migdalia directly, you may email her at migdalia.alvarez-morales@polk-fl.net.

– Aunt Agony



WHERE DO I FIND...?

Where do I find access to the certification information that is on file for me with the district?

You can access **Staff Portal** 365 days a year to find information about your certification status (e.g., certificate validity period) and exam-related data on file. Your printable Certification Report Card is a reflection of this.

Where do I find the steps to submit payment to renew my upcoming expiring 2019 Professional Teaching Certificate?

The **Renewal Payment Form** is accessible in Staff Portal. You may also access Staff Portal to add a subject to your professional teaching certificate if you've passed an additional subject area exam.

Where do I find the amount of inservice points I've accumulated with the District?

Your District Inservice Record is found in **NetConnect**. You can reach out directly to the Professional Development Department for additional questions regarding your NetConnect Record or Transcript.

Where do I find a copy of my Florida Teaching Certificate?

1) **Login** to your FLDOE account. 2) On the Quick Start Menu under "View Documents," **click on** "Select" to print your certificate. 3) Print certificate.

ESSA POP QUIZ ANSWERS:

1) F: Every 5 years

3) T

2) T

4) F: Every Student Succeeds Act

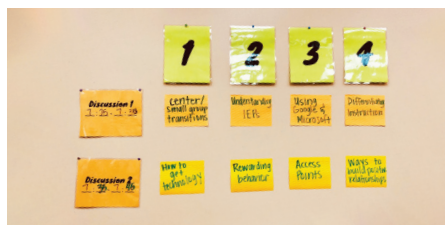
TEACHER ENGAGEMENT CORNER:

NEW TEACHER WELCOME RECEPTION



At the **New Teacher Welcome Reception** on August 31, new teachers from around the district gathered alongside teacher leaders, mentors, and district staff to celebrate their choice to become a teacher in the Polk County Public Schools. Local restaurants catered samples of popular menu items. Teachers shared both experiences and what motivates them to be a “superhero” to their students – their stories definitely inspired the audience!

NEW TEACHER SEMINAR



The kickoff to the **New Teacher Seminar** series took place on September 11, from 5:30 – 8:30 P.M. By the end of the evening, it was hard to get the new teachers to stop talking and laughing with each other! Bonds were formed, stories were swapped, and experiences shared, giving teachers ideas to use the very next day in their classrooms. We hope you’ll join us for an upcoming New Teacher Seminar!

The Teacher Advisor

ANNISSA WILFALK

Director

annissa.wilfalk@polk-fl.net

Supervises the Recruitment and Educator Quality staff – and spearheads efforts to create a diverse qualified teaching staff for Polk County Public Schools. She monitors district compliance with federal, state, and local educational regulations.

KAREN PFISTER

Senior Coordinator of Teacher Certification

karen.pfister@polk-fl.net

Delivers training re: certification policies & procedures; provides certification advice to high school, middle school, and district-level staff; manages data collection/analysis to accurately reflect teachers' credentials and qualifications.

MIGDALIA ALVAREZ-MORALES

Certification Specialist

migdalia.alvarez-morales@polk-fl.net

Assists in hiring & reappointment of elementary teachers and provides certification advisements. Manages the 'Comparable Methods' procedure to ensure ESE teachers benefit from the 'alternative-qualifications' provision of "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA).

JOANELLE ARANA

Certification Specialist

joanelle.arana@polk-fl.net

Assists in hiring and advises elementary and industry-trained teachers. Requests issuance of temporary certificates, processes certificate renewals & add-ons, and facilitates Career Technical Education (District) certificates.

KIMBERLY GOOCH

Certification Specialist

kimberly.gooch@polk-fl.net

Evaluates credentials of prospective paraeducators; provides assistance in hiring & advises teachers at select elementary schools. Handles certificate renewals & add-ons.

LIZ HARGIS

Personnel Assistant I

liz.hargis@polk-fl.net

Creates and updates records related to certification of instructional personnel; scans incoming transcripts and maintains a related database; manages paperwork for individuals in out-of-field assignments; answers phone calls and provides general information about certification procedures.

CONTACT NUMBERS

P: 863-534-0781

F: 863-534-0737

FIND PAST ISSUES ON THEHUB

thehub.polk-fl.net/hr/certification