

**Frequently Asked Questions for Educator Recertification Requirements – New Process to
Apply through the FLDOE for Recertification see #8 below**

There are some questions being asked about the recertification requirement which became part of statute with the passage of Senate Bill 1108 during the 2013 Legislative Session. An applicant for renewal of a professional educator's certificate must earn at least one (1) college credit or equivalent in-service (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 or the equivalency of twenty (20) in-service points in teaching students with disabilities. Credit must be earned during the last validity period of the Professional Certificate.

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

The bill stated that the requirement may not add to the total hours required by the Department of Education for continuing education or in-service training so no, this requirement does not add to the total hours required for renewal. To illustrate this: an educator certified in Math and Science needs 100 general training credits plus 20 ESE credits to recertify; an educator certified in English and ESE needs 100 general training credits plus 20 ESE credits to recertify; an educator certified in Elementary Education, MG Math and ESE needs 100 general training credits plus 20 ESE credits to recertify.

3. What type of courses and/or in-service activities will satisfy this requirement?

Courses identified as ESE courses in Pinellas County School's Professional Learning Catalog will meet this requirement. A list of acceptable ESE classes included in the district's Professional Learning Catalog is available. The state has said that gifted classes are not eligible to meet the ESE requirement. There is a proposal that the Florida Certification ESE subject area exam may meet the ESE requirement.

4. 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 and meets our district expectation.

5. 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).

6. 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.

7. How do I apply and how do I know I have enough points to recertify?

Login to PLN and view your transcript. Count the points from July 1 of the *first-year* of your validity period through June 30 of your *last-year* of the year validity period. You should have a minimum of 100 earned general points in PLN and 20 points in ESE for a total of 120 points. Now click on the ESE tab at the top of the transcript. Use the same start and end points in your validity period look for classes that start with **ESE**:

This excludes all gifted classes. For further questions on your transcript contact geldernn@pcsb.org. Also, see below for further details of how to locate appropriate ESE classes on your transcript.

8. What is the process to apply online through VERSA the new Florida Dept. of Education site for recertification?

Creating an Educator Account and Onboarding

Access the online certification website at <https://flcertify.fldoe.org/datamart/login.do>

Because the Bureau of Educator Certification has launched a new online application system those who have applied online in the past—or those who wish to submit an application for certification for the first time— must complete this process.

- **Information required to set up an account:**
- Name
- Valid Email address
- Information required to onboard an existing online account
- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number