



POLICY 3.44

- 5-A** I recommend that the Board approve development of the proposed new Policy 3.44, to be entitled “Verification of Experienced Teachers’ Highly Qualified Status Under NCLB.”

[Contacts: Gerre Wood, PX 48799; Dr. Marion Weil, PX 46814.]

Development

CONSENT ITEM

- Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, three basic requirements for a teacher’s “highly qualified” designation are: 1) an acceptable bachelor’s or higher degree; 2) state licensure/certification (with no requirements waived); and 3) demonstration of subject competency for the subject(s) and grade level(s) taught.
- Experienced educators can satisfy the third requirement above through an alternative medium: the Florida DOE’s High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) Plan for Experienced Teachers.
- This Policy would supplement State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0503(3), which recognizes the Florida DOE’s HOUSSE plan as an alternative method, other than certification or subject testing, by which experienced teachers can document subject-content competency and knowledge in a core academic subject the teacher is teaching.
- The HOUSSE plan uses multiple components that, in total, document competency in the subject content to meet requirements for the NCLB highly qualified designation. The District’s form PBSB 2133, used to implement the plan, would be incorporated by reference within this Policy.

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3 VERIFICATION OF EXPERIENCED TEACHERS'
4 HIGHLY QUALIFIED STATUS UNDER NCLB
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- 6 1. Purpose.-- The School Board is committed to having highly qualified teachers in the
7 District's classrooms pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).
- 8 a. This Policy is intended to supplement State Board of Education Rule and to
9 implement the Florida DOE's High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of
10 Evaluation (HOUSSE) Plan for highly qualified teacher requirements within 20
11 U.S.C. § 7801(23) (codifying § 9101 of NCLB), pursuant to the Florida DOE's
12 memoranda on Highly Qualified Teachers (available online at
13 <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-102>), incorporated herein
14 by reference.
- 15 b. The Board recognizes that the U.S. Department of Education has authorized
16 using the High, Objective, Uniform, State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) to
17 determine a teacher to be "highly qualified" under NCLB other than by
18 certification or subject testing. Under the HOUSSE plan, *experienced* Florida
19 certificated educators can verify core content-area competency and knowledge
20 as defined by NCLB standards to satisfy the highly qualified teacher criteria by
21 June 30, 2006 or as otherwise amended by federal or state law.
- 22 c. Teachers who meet HOUSSE criteria will not have to take additional courses or
23 take specific Florida subject area exams to be deemed "Highly Qualified" by
24 NCLB standards, and will no longer be considered out-of-field in the core
25 content area being verified, State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0503.
- 26 2. Features.-- The HOUSSE plan uses multiple items that verify competency in the
27 core content area to meet the requirements of the NCLB "highly qualified"
28 designation.
- 29 a. HOUSSE points are allowed for successful teaching experience in the core
30 content areas, satisfactory classroom observations and performance
31 evaluations in the core content areas, college level courses in the core content
32 areas, approved professional development in the core content areas,
33 appropriate professional activities related to teaching the core content areas,
34 and student achievement learning gains for teachers of English/Language Arts
35 and Mathematics in Grades 4-10.

- 36 b. The Florida HOUSSE plan requires 100 points in this rubric for each core
37 content area being verified; and form PBSB 2133, used by this District to
38 implement the plan, is incorporated by reference herein.
- 39 c. The District School Board is not required to notify parents of the students taught
40 by teachers who are deemed highly qualified via the HOUSSE plan that the
41 teacher does not have certification in the core content area.

42 3. **Applicability**

- 43 a. The HOUSSE plan is applicable to, but not limited to, the following types of
44 teaching assignments:
- 45 i. teachers certified in an ESE area and who teach one or more core content
46 areas;
- 47 ii. teachers of foreign languages (especially where no subject area test is
48 available);
- 49 iii. teachers of academic core content courses;
- 50 iv. teachers in alternative school settings, such as Juvenile Justice and/or
51 Educational Alternatives; and
- 52 v. teachers hired as Exchange Teachers.
- 53 b. The HOUSSE plan cannot be used to satisfy ESOL or Reading content area
54 highly qualified status.

55 4. **Procedures**

- 56 a. It is the responsibility of the teachers to provide any official documentation to
57 their respective Principal/Director for HOUSSE points that the Palm Beach
58 County School District does not have in its electronic files.
- 59 b. Principals will electronically sign off on all approved forms in the District's
60 HOUSSE System and forward appropriate official documentation to the
61 District's HOUSSE Administrator for final signoff.
- 62 c. Final approved documentation relating to these procedures will be scanned into
63 the teachers' personnel records.

- 64 5. **Noncompliance.--** Principals will receive a list of teachers who are not in
65 compliance with the NCLB "Highly Qualified" requirements. Teachers who do not
66 meet the "Highly Qualified" status by the deadline will receive a letter notifying them

67 of such from the Division of Human Resources; the letters will be sent to school
68 centers for distribution.

69 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.41(2); 1001.42(22).

70 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. § 1012.42; 20 U.S.C. § 7801(23).

71 RULE SUPPLEMENTED: Fla. Admin. Code r. 6A-1.0503

72 HISTORY: 2006

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 3.44 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date