

6A-5.081 Approval of School Leadership Programs.

This rule sets forth the requirements and implementation of the approval process for each type of school leadership program offered by a Florida postsecondary institution or public school district, charter school, or charter management organization.

(1) Definitions. For the purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply.

(a) through (c) No change.

(d) “Continued approval” means that subsequent to an initial approval, a school leadership program has been granted the authority to operate for a five-year period. The basis for continued approval is outlined in the documents entitled Florida Department of Education Continued Program Approval Standards for Level I Educational Leadership Programs, Form EL CAS-~~2025~~ 2023; and Florida Department of Education Continued Program Approval Standards for Level II School Principal Programs, Form SP CAS-~~2025~~ 2023.

(e) through (g) No change.

(h) “Initial approval” means that a new school leadership program has been granted the authority to operate for a five-year period. The basis for initial approval is outlined in the documents entitled Florida Department of Education Initial Program Approval Standards for Level I Educational Leadership Programs, Form EL IAS-~~2025~~ 2023; and Florida Department of Education Initial Program Approval Standards for Level II School Principal Programs, Form SP IAS-~~2025~~ 2023.

(i) through (t) No change.

(2) Requirements and processes for initial request and approval of Level I and Level II programs.

(a) No change.

(b) Processes for submission of a Level I program for initial approval:

1. No change.

2. Upon written verification by the Department of a fully completed request, the provider shall submit to the Department an electronic application, which is further described in the documents, Florida Department of Education Initial Program Approval Standards for Level I Educational Leadership Programs, Form EL IAS-~~2025~~ 2023 by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

3. No change.

(c) No change.

(d) Processes for submission of a Level II program for initial approval:

1. No change.

2. Upon written verification by the Department of a fully completed request, the provider shall submit to the Department an electronic application, which is further described in the document, Florida Department of Education Initial Program Approval Standards for Level II School Principal Programs, Form SP IAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~, by January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

3. No change.

(3) Requirements and processes for continued approval of Level I and Level II programs.

(a) Reporting processes for continued approval are as follows:

1. The program has procedures or processes to ensure annual continuous improvement and to review and make modifications if needed to maintain compliance with statutory changes. Reporting instructions to the Department for these procedures are posted at <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/preparation/edual-leadership.stml>.

1. renumbered 2. No change.

~~3.2.~~ By November 15 of each year, each provider shall submit via the Department's eIPEP platform located at <https://www.florida-eipep.org/>, a program evaluation plan in accordance with Florida Department of Education Continued Program Approval Standards, Form EL CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ for Level I programs; or Form SP CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ for Level II programs.

~~4.3.~~ During the final year of the program approval period, the Department shall conduct a continued approval site visit that will include a review of each approved program. The purpose of the site visit shall be to review evidence of the program's implementation of the continued approval standards described in the document, Florida Department of Education Continued Program Approval Standards, Form EL CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ or Form SP CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~. The site visit shall also include a review of the annual program evaluation plans described in subparagraph (3)(a)2. of this rule. At the end of the site visit, a summative rating score shall be calculated based on criteria outlined in the forms: Form EL CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ for Level I programs or Form SP CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ for Level II programs.

4. renumbered 5. No change.

(b) No change.

(4) No change.

(5) Program Requirements

(a) Section 1012.562(4), F.S., curriculum for Level I and Level II programs must not:

1. Violate s. 1000.05, F.S.

2. Distort significant historical events. Distortion of historical events in curriculum and instruction is the presentation of or the assignment of instructional resources or learning activities that give a misleading or false account or impression. Examples of theories that distort historical events and are inconsistent with State Board-approved standards include the denial or minimization of the Holocaust, and the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT). CRT is the theory that racism is not merely the product of prejudice, but that racism is embedded in American society and its legal systems in order to uphold the supremacy of white persons.

3. Promote identity politics. Promoting identity politics is the presentation of or the assignment of instructional resources or learning activities that promote the theory that an individual inherently adheres to a particular political viewpoint based on one's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status.

4. Endorse theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities. For the purposes of this rule, institutions refer to the initial creation and foundational structure of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States government.

(b) School leader preparation programs must afford candidates the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.

~~(6)(5)~~ The following forms are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this rule. Copies may be obtained from the Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 124, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400.

(a) Florida Department of Education Initial Program Approval Standards for Level I Educational Leadership Programs, Form EL IAS-~~2025~~2023 (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-46033>), effective May 2025 ~~November 2023~~.

(b) Florida Department of Education Initial Program Approval Standards for Level II School Principal Programs, Form SP IAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-16034>), effective May 2025 ~~November 2023~~.

(c) Florida Department of Education Continued Program Approval Standards for Level I Educational Leadership Programs, Form EL CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-16035>), May 2025 ~~November 2023~~.

(d) Florida Department of Education Continued Program Approval Standards for Level II School Principal Programs, Form SP CAS-~~2025~~ ~~2023~~ (<http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-16036>), effective May 2025 ~~November 2023~~.

(e) through (f) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 1001.02, 1012.562, 1012.986 FS. Law Implemented 1012.56, 1012.562, 1012.986 FS. History—New 6-20-07, Amended 12-20-16, 11-28-18, 11-21-23.