

SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

CERTIFIED, QUALIFIED and HIGHLY QUALIFIED

Certified

All teachers must hold or be deemed eligible (by a Florida Statement of Status of Eligibility) to hold a valid Florida certificate for full-time teaching.

Qualified

Teachers must hold certificates covering subject/s required by *Florida Course Code Directory (FCCD)* for their teaching assignments.

Teachers not appropriately certified according to the *FCCD*, must be approved by the Board to teach out-of-field and must comply with their Agreements to Earn, or ESOL Plans of Study. Allowable out-of-field endorsement areas are Gifted, ESOL, Reading and Work Experience.

Teachers entering the Polk County School system under temporary certification (in a teaching assignment which requires a bachelor's level subject area) are required to document a passing score on the requisite Florida Subject Area Test before being placed under contract, and before being paid regular teacher's salary.

Highly Qualified – Core Academic Areas (English, Civics, Reading, Government, Language Arts, Economics, Math, Music, Drama & Art, Science, History, Foreign Languages, Geography)

K-6 Art – Certification in Art K-12; and either a passing score on the Art K-12 Florida Subject Area Examination; or, Verification of an Out of State Subject Area Content Test for either K-6 or K-12 Art; or, Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan for either K-6 or K-12 Art

K-6 Drama– Certification in Drama K-12; and either a passing score on the Drama K-12 Florida Subject Area Examination; or, Verification of an Out of State Subject Area Content Test for either K-6 or K-12 Drama; or, Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan for either K-6 or K-12 Drama

K-6 Music Certification in Music K-12; and either a passing score on the Music K-12 Florida Subject Area Examination; or Verification of an Out of State Subject Area Content Test for either K-6 or K-12 Music, or, Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan for either K-6 or K-12 Music

K-6 or PreK/Primary Education –Certification in the appropriate subject according to grade level assigned; and either a passing score on appropriate Florida subject area exam (SAE) for grade level assigned; or Verification of an Out of State Subject Area Content Test or Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan for level assigned.

K-6 Foreign Language – Certification in the appropriate Foreign Language; and either a passing score on the (appropriate to assignment) Foreign Language Florida Subject Area Examination; or, Verification of an Out of State Subject Area Content Test for either K-6 or K-12 (appropriate to assignment) Foreign Language; or, Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan for either K-6 or K-12 (appropriate to assignment) Foreign Language

Secondary 6-12 (Except Reading and Social Science) – Certification in the subject area/s taught

Secondary 6-12 Reading Certification in either the Reading Endorsement or the Reading Subject Coverage (This is an allowable Out-of-Field Assignment if certified English 6-12 or Middle Grades English 5-9 or Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum.)

Middle Grades & Secondary Social Science Certification in the appropriate subject according to the Florida Course Code Directory; and, either a passing score on the appropriate Florida Subject Area Test or Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan in the area assigned to teach

Exceptional Student Education (ESE) –

- **ELEMENTARY LEVEL:** Certification in Exceptional Student Education (ESE); and either a passing score on the Florida K-6 Subject Area Examination; or, Verification of an Out of State Subject Area Content Test in K-6 Elementary Education; or, Verification of an Out of State HOUSSE Plan for K-6.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL:** Certification in Exceptional Student Education (ESE); and documentation of HQ at elementary level (as noted above) **AND** passing score on the Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum Subject Area Exam.
- **SENIOR HIGH LEVEL:** Certification in Exceptional Student Education (ESE); and documentation of HQ at elementary level (as noted above) **AND** certification in secondary core academic subject(s) assigned **OR** passing score on the subject area exam for each secondary core academic assigned.

The School Board of Polk County, Florida prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, homelessness, or disability or other basis prohibited by law in any of its programs, activities, or employment. If you require any type of accommodation to complete the employment process due to a disability, please call the Human Resource Services Division at (863)-534-0781. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, please contact the Polk County School District by calling Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771.