

VERIFICATION OF EXPERIENCED TEACHERS' HIGHLY QUALIFIED STATUS UNDER NCLB

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1. **Purpose.**-- The Governing Board is committed to having highly qualified teachers in South Tech Charter Academy, Inc. classrooms pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).
 - a. This Policy is intended to supplement State Board of Education Rule and to implement the Florida DOE's High, Objective, Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) Plan for highly qualified teacher requirements within 20 U.S.C. § 7801(23) (codifying § 9101 of NCLB), pursuant to the Florida DOE's memoranda on Highly Qualified Teachers (available online at <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-102>), incorporated herein by reference.
 - b. The Board recognizes that the U.S. Department of Education has authorized using the High, Objective, Uniform, State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) to determine a teacher to be "highly qualified" under NCLB other than by certification or subject testing. Under the HOUSSE plan, *experienced* Florida certificated educators can verify core content-area competency and knowledge as defined by NCLB standards to satisfy the highly qualified teacher criteria by June 30, 2006 or as otherwise amended by federal or state law.
 - c. Teachers who meet HOUSSE criteria will not have to take additional courses or take specific Florida subject area exams to be deemed "Highly Qualified" by NCLB standards, and will no longer be considered out-of-field in the core content area being verified, State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0503.
2. **Features.**-- The HOUSSE plan uses multiple items that verify competency in the core content area to meet the requirements of the NCLB "highly qualified" designation.
 - a. HOUSSE points are allowed for successful teaching experience in the core content areas, satisfactory classroom observations and performance evaluations in the core content areas, college level courses in the core content areas, approved professional development in the core content areas, appropriate professional activities related to teaching the core content areas, and student achievement learning gains for teachers of English/Language Arts and Mathematics in Grades 4-10.
 - b. The Florida HOUSSE plan requires 100 points in this rubric for each core content area being verified; and Form PBSO 2133, used by the Palm Beach School District to implement the plan, is incorporated by reference herein.
 - c. The Governing Board is not required to notify parents of the students taught by teachers who are deemed highly qualified via the HOUSSE plan that the teacher does not have certification in the core content area.
3. **Applicability -**
 - a. The HOUSSE plan is applicable to, but not limited to, the following types of teaching assignments:
 - i. teachers certified in an ESE area and who teach one or more core content areas;
 - ii. teachers of foreign languages (especially where no subject area test is available);
 - iii. teachers of academic core content courses;
 - iv. teachers in alternative school settings, such as Juvenile Justice and/or Educational Alternatives; and
 - v. teachers hired as Exchange Teachers.
 - b. The HOUSSE plan cannot be used to satisfy ESOL or Reading content area highly qualified status.

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4. Procedures

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

5. **Noncompliance.**-- Principals will receive a list of teachers who are not in compliance with the NCLB "Highly Qualified" requirements. Teachers who do not meet the "Highly Qualified" status by the deadline will receive a letter notifying them of such from the District's Division of Human Resources. The letters will be sent to school centers for distribution.

Authority: Fla. Stat. §§ 1001.41(2); 1001.42(22).

Implemented: Fla. Stat. § 1012.42; 20 U.S.C. § 7801(23).

Rule Supplemented: Fla. Admin. Code r. 6A-1.0503

History: New: 06/01/06

Reference: Palm Beach School District Policy 3.44