

Office of Human Resources  
Mariaelena Vidal, Human Resources Officer

**SUBJECT: ADOPT THE HIGH, OBJECTIVE UNIFORM STATE STANDARD OF EVALUATION (HOUSSE) OPTION FOR EXPERIENCED TEACHERS TO MEET THE HIGHLY QUALIFIED REQUIREMENTS OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001**

**COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 makes significant changes in educational programs including a strong focus on effective personnel and quality instruction. The act stipulates requirements and time lines for ensuring that all public elementary, middle, and secondary teachers of core academic subjects meet the federal definition of a highly qualified teacher no later than June 30, 2006.

NCLB does not require veteran teachers to return to school or get a degree in every subject they teach to demonstrate they are highly qualified. The law allows them to provide an alternate method for experienced teachers to demonstrate subject-matter competency that recognizes, among other things, the experience, expertise, and professional training garnered over time in the profession.

On September 16, 2004, the Florida Department of Education distributed a technical assistance paper to clarify Florida's plan for teachers to meet the highly qualified requirements of the NCLB. The technical assistance paper provides options for veteran teachers to become highly qualified. One of these options is the High, Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) plan for experienced teachers.

The HOUSSE plan is not limited to, but is especially applicable to the following types of teaching assignments:

- Teachers certified in an exceptional student education area and who teach one or more academic core contents.
- Teachers of a foreign language who are highly qualified native speakers in one of the foreign languages for which there is no subject area exam available.
- Teachers of multiple core academic subjects to hospital or homebound students.
- Teachers of multiple core academic subjects in alternative settings.
- Exchange teachers who hold the equivalent of an acceptable bachelor's degree or higher and a valid Exchange Teacher Certificate.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopt the High, Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) option for experienced teachers to meet the highly qualified requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

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