

OUT-OF-FIELD

What is out-of-field?

Short definition:

Out-of-field means that you are teaching a subject for which your current certification is not recognized as appropriate for the assignment.

Long definition and example:

You are out-of-field when you are teaching a subject for which your current certification is not recognized as appropriate. For example: A teacher with physics (but not mathematics) on his/her certificate is teaching out-of-field when s/he is teaching mathematics.

You must hold a certificate in a subject area in order to be placed out-of-field in another subject area.

You must agree to earn at least six semester hours toward this out-of-field certification each year you teach out-of-field or pass the Florida Department of Education “Subject Area Exam (SAE)” for the out-of-field assignment. (Note: Requirements for teaching ESOL {English for Speakers of Other Languages} are unique; consult written ESOL agreement.)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I be put out-of-field?

Your principal must request that out-of-field assignment and receive approval from Human Resources. School districts are required by the State of Florida to employ appropriately certificated people when possible. Since this is not always possible, we sometimes must exercise the out-of-field option.

2. What is an Agreement to Earn?

An Agreement to Earn represents a professional commitment to meet the stipulations of the agreement within the agreed-upon time.

3. When I accept an out-of-field position, am I obligating myself to earn full certification?

No. You are obligating yourself to earn six semester hours toward appropriate certification each year you teach out-of-field or pass the Florida Department of Education “Subject Area Exam (SAE)” for the out-of-field assignment. This obligation ends when you are assigned back in-field or you earn the appropriate certification for the out-of-field assignment.

4. Are the rules different for an out-of-field assignment during extended year (summer school)?

No. The rules regarding out-of-field are the same.

5. How long do I have to complete my required six semester hours or to pass the Subject Area Exam?

You have one calendar year from the date you begin the out-of-field assignment to present evidence of completed coursework or a passing score on the Florida Department of Education “Subject Area Exam (SAE).”

6. May I use previous college credit to meet my out-of-field obligation?

No. The college credit must be earned after your out-of-field assignment begins.

7. If I have no certificate, may I teach and be placed out-of-field?

No. In order to be placed out-of-field, you must be eligible for a Florida Educator’s certificate.

8. What happens if I have not taken the courses or passed the SAE within the one year allotted?

While each situation is considered individually, the following generally apply:

- ❖ If you were initially hired into an out-of-field assignment, you may no longer be eligible for employment.
- ❖ If you were initially hired into an in-field assignment and were subsequently assigned out-of-field, you will be moved to an appropriate assignment.
- ❖ If you fail to meet the out-of-field requirements, you can never go out-of-field again.