

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2702
Version:	FA1
Request Number:	13142
Author:	Rep. Ford
Date:	3/6/2025
Impact:	No Impact

Research Analysis

The Floor Substitute for HB 2702 requires directors and assistant directors of district-wide special education programs to hold a valid special education teaching certificate, or a master's degree in school administration or special education.

If they do not have these qualifications, they must have a valid teaching certificate and receive an acknowledgement of competency from the State Department of Education within one year of starting their directorship.

The SDE is required to develop two pathways for completing a one-time acknowledgement of competency:

- A microcredential track for individuals with five or fewer years of working as a special education administrator; and
- A standard track for individuals with six or more years' experience serving as special education administrator.

To receive the acknowledgement of competency the director must complete a 150-hour training course on state and federal special education policies and complete the competency exam in the area of mild-moderate disabilities, severe-profound disabilities, or comprehensive special education administered by the SDE.

CHANGES BETWEEN COMMITTEE SUB AND FLOOR SUB:

The Floor Sub:

- requires the changes to begin August 1, 2026 instead of July1, 2025;
- Modifies the requirements for receiving an acknowledgement of competency;
- Requires SDE to create a two-tiered track for receiving the acknowledgement of competency depending on experience;
- Allows special education directors with master's degrees in school administration and special education to be exempt from receiving the acknowledgement of competency.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

The measure as currently written is not anticipated to result in a negative fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

Prepared By: Cole Stout, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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