

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

INSTRUCTIONAL APPLICATION PROCEDURES & TIPS

GETTING STARTED / GENERAL INFORMATION

EMAIL REQUIREMENT

A valid email account is required of all users of the TeacherMatch system. If you do not have an email account, you may create a free account at www.gmail.com or www.yahoo.com/mail.

INTERNET BROWSER REQUIREMENT

For an optimal experience with the TeacherMatch platform, use the most recent version of Chrome, Firefox or Safari. Some images and items may not display properly using Internet Explorer.

TRANSCRIPT SUBMISSION (PAPER OR ELECTRONIC)

All instructional applicants must submit official college/university transcripts for all colleges/universities attended.

Paper copies of transcripts must arrive in a sealed envelope from the college/university or emailed directly from the college/university. Mail transcripts to:

The School District of Osceola County
Human Resources – Employment Services
801 Bill Beck Blvd.
Kissimmee, FL 34744-4434

Electronic transcripts may be submitted via email directly from the college or university to: employmenttranscripts@osceola.k12.fl.us. Please be aware that if an electronic transcript is sent to the district, then a second transcript must be requested for the Florida Department of Education – Bureau of Educator Certification.

APPLICATION VALIDITY PERIOD

Instructional employment applications are active for one year from the date of submission. Applicants will need to update and re-submit their application annually in order for the file to remain active.

Please note the School District of Osceola County does not consider a job candidate to be an official job applicant until he or she has successfully completed all steps in these application procedures. Submission of a resume to a work site shall not be considered to have met this criterion.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

For questions regarding accessing TeacherMatch, uploading documents to your profile, or technical support, please contact TeacherMatch by email at applicants@teachermatch.org or by phone at 855-980-0545.

APPLYING FOR SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL VACANCIES

REVIEW CURRENT AVAILABLE TEACHING JOBS

When you click on an opening, you will be taken to TeacherMatch where you must complete the following three items to be considered for instructional positions:

- 1) Submit your **Portfolio**. The Portfolio is similar to an employment application.
- 2) Answer all **Qualifying Questions** which pertain to your background.
- 3) Complete the **Educator's Professional Inventory (EPI)**. The EPI helps us develop a Professional Development plan for our teachers and is required for all Osceola County teacher candidates.

PORTFOLIO TIPS

Prior to beginning the application process, gather the items and information below that will be needed to complete your candidate Portfolio:

- Colleges and/or universities attended, degrees earned, major subjects and dates attended
- Teaching certificates, licenses, with type, subject/endorsement area, and date of issuance and expiration
- Work history (teaching, non-teaching and student teaching), including school/company name, name of supervisor, phone number, email and dates of employment
- Three professional references, including name, job title, school/company, phone number and email address (NOTE – references listed will be contacted automatically when you submit your Profile.)
- Social Security number

Upload as many documents as possible to your Profile, especially **transcripts** and **teaching certificates**. Uploaded transcripts are considered unofficial, but they can be used to verify credentials and establish position eligibility.

TIPS FOR COMPLETING QUALIFYING QUESTIONS

Please be aware that failure to respond truthfully to any of the Qualification Questions will disqualify you from employment.

If you have disclosed any criminal history situations, you will be required to submit the following documents:

- Written explanation of the criminal disclosure
- Court certified police arrest report
- Court certified disposition of the case

If you have disclosed any prior employment history situations (non-renewals, investigations, suspensions, revocations of licenses, etc.), you are required to submit the following documents:

- Written explanation of the incident
- Evaluation from the year you were non-renewed
- Settlement agreement
- Final order

Any items pertaining to criminal history or employment history situations should be mailed directly to:

The School District of Osceola County
Human Resources & Employee Relations
ATTN: Sadaris Cheatham, Employee Relations Manager
799 Bill Beck Boulevard
Kissimmee, FL 34744

Educator's Professional Inventory (EPI) Tips

TIPS FOR COMPLETING THE EPI

- The Educator's Professional Inventory (EPI) must be completed in one sitting and can take up to ninety (90) minutes.
- Make sure you have a secure internet connection prior to starting the EPI.
- Make sure you can devote your full attention to the EPI and not be distracted.
- If you "time out" or are unable to complete the EPI for any reason, you must contact TeacherMatch to submit a request for your account to be reset. They can be reached at applicants@teachermatch.org or by phone at 855-980-0545.

AFTER APPLYING

FOLLOW-UP WITH SCHOOLS

- Schools will be notified automatically when you apply for an open position at their school via TeacherMatch.
- You are encouraged to reach out to schools directly after applying to introduce yourself and follow-up.
- Contact information for schools can be found at the District website: www.osceolaschools.net.

INTERVIEWING AND HIRING DECISIONS

- The selection, interview, and hiring process is conducted by the administrative team at each school or department location.
- Formal job offers are made via email from the hiring location to the candidate through the TeacherMatch platform.
- A candidate must click "I Accept" in the body of the offer email in order to officially accept an instructional position.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RETIREES

"Instructional staff who are receiving retirement benefits under a public or private retirement system who are hired (or rehired following retirement or DROP completion) will be granted up to a maximum of five (5) years' experience on the salary schedule for years of experience that are not included in the years of experience for which they are receiving retirement benefits." *Source: 2012-2013 Employment Administration Handbook; PSS Salary Related Guidelines; IV. Experience - Retired Professional Support Staff*

Florida Retirement System Investment Plan members are considered "retired" once you've taken any self-initiated distribution (cash-out or rollover) from your investment plan account regardless of your age.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Human Resources at 407-870-4800.

IDENTIFICATION & NOTIFICATION OF EQUITY COORDINATORS

As required by Rule 6A-18.910(1)(g), FAC: Title IX 106.81(1); Section 504:104.8(a); ADA:35.1007(a); and Age: 110.25(b) the following individuals are Equity Coordinators:

Equity Coordinator

Sadaris Cheatham
Employee Relations Manager
Human Resources & Employee Relations
799 Bill Beck Boulevard
Kissimmee, FL 34744
407-870-4800

ADA and Age Discrimination Coordinator

Tammy Cope-Otterson
Chief Human Resources Officer
Human Resources & Employee Relations
799 Bill Beck Boulevard
Kissimmee, FL 34744
407-870-4800

COLLECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Please read this special notice regarding the collection of Social Security Numbers:

<http://osceola.ss8.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=567190&pageId=649976>

VETERANS' PREFERENCE INFORMATION

For the purposes of appointment, retention, reinstatement, reemployment and promotion, Veterans' Preference ensures that veterans and eligible persons are given consideration at each step of the selection process. However, preference does not guarantee that a veteran or other eligible person will be the candidate selected to fill the position. Section 295.07, Florida Statutes (F.S.) specifies who is eligible for Veterans' Preference. State of Florida residency is not required for Veterans' Preference. Completion of the Veterans' Preference section is voluntary and will be kept confidential in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Listed below are the seven Veterans' Preference categories.

- A) A veteran with a service-connected disability who is eligible for or receiving compensation, disability retirement, or pension under public laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Defense. [Section 295.07(1)(a), F.S.]
- B) The spouse of a veteran who cannot qualify for employment because of a total and permanent service-connected disability, or the spouse of a veteran missing in action, captured, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power. [Section 295.07(1)(b), F.S.]
- C) A wartime veteran as defined in section 1.01(14), F.S., who has served on active duty for one day or more during a wartime period or who has served in a qualifying campaign or expedition. Active duty for training shall not qualify for eligibility under this paragraph. [Section 295.07(1)(c), F.S.]
- D) The un-remarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability. [Section 295.07(1)(d), F.S.]
- E) The mother, father, legal guardian, or un-remarried widow or widower of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions, as verified by the United States Department of Defense. [Section 295.07(1)(e), F.S.]
- F) A veteran as defined in section 1.01(14), F.S., excluding active duty for training. [Section 295.07(1)(f), F.S.]
- G) A current member of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard. [Section 295.07(1)(g), F.S.]

All applicants claiming Veterans' Preference must submit a DD 214 form (member copy #4) or comparable discharge, separation or current reserve documentation that indicates the character of service as honorable. In addition, all applicants claiming Categories A, B, D, or E above must also furnish supporting documentation in accordance with the provisions of Rule 55A-7 Florida Administrative Code. Please fax your supporting documentation to the People First Service Center at (888) 403-2110 by the closing date of the job announcement. Be sure to include the position number for which you are applying on each page submitted. All required documents must be submitted no later than the closing date of the job announcement.

Under Florida law, preference in appointment shall be given first to those persons in Categories A or B and then to those in Categories C, D, E, F or G. If a qualified applicant claiming Veterans' Preference believes he/ she was not afforded employment preference, he/she may file a complaint with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans' Preference, P.O. Box 31003, St. Petersburg, FL 33731. A complaint must be filed within 21 days of the applicant receiving notice of the hiring decision made by the employing agency or within three (3) months of the date the application is filed with the employer if no notice is given.