

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Reading and Language Arts Supervisors  
District Professional Development Contacts  
Middle School Principals  
High School Principals

**FROM:** Mary Laura Openshaw  
Director, Just Read, Florida!

**DATE:** April 1, 2004

**RE:** Summer Reading Endorsement Professional Development Opportunity

I am delighted to inform you about an unprecedented opportunity for middle and high school teachers in the state of Florida. Our Just Read, Florida! Office at the Department of Education funded the Reading Endorsement Professional Development Program at Florida State University's (FSU) College of Education in order to provide additional no-cost professional development opportunities in reading for grades 6-12 secondary educators. Through this program, secondary teachers of reading can earn the required Reading Endorsement (with the exception of the practicum), as well as continue their education and improve their students' reading skills in the classroom.

This program will offer graduate level reading courses and will be offered in ten cities throughout the state in the summer of 2004, further enhancing Florida's pool of highly qualified teachers in reading. The summer 2004 program currently consists of two graduate-level courses specifically designed to address Reading Endorsement Competencies One and Two and will offer courses meeting Competencies Three and Four/Five in the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005.

MARY LAURA OPENSHAW  
DIRECTOR, JUST READ, FLORIDA!

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These courses have limited space available, and we will enroll applicants on a priority and first-come-first serve basis. Please do not delay in communicating information about this opportunity to your teachers. Applicants accepted into the reading program will have their graduate tuition paid. All course books and manuals are also provided free of charge and each student will receive a stipend of \$150 per course to offset travel/daycare expenses or other incidental expenses providing they receive a grade of "C" or higher.

Please print the attached informational brochure and disseminate it to the teachers and reading related professionals in your district. Program information, course dates and registration information can be accessed at <http://cerps.coe.fsu.edu/reading.htm>.

We look forward to serving your needs by continuing to offer a variety of resources as Florida journeys toward the goal of all children reading on grade level and higher by 2012! Please contact FSU's Center for Educational Research and Policy Studies at (850)644-3419 if you have further questions about the summer 2004 Reading Endorsement Professional Development Program.

MLO/be

CC: Ava Byrne  
Betty Coxe  
Patricia Cheavers

**MARY LAURA OPENSHAW**  
**DIRECTOR, JUST READ, FLORIDA!**