

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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DPS: 04-129

June 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford, K-12 Chancellor
Mary Laura Openshaw, Director, Just Read, Florida!

SUBJECT: *Reading Endorsement for Exceptional Student Education Teachers Update*

Many have asked if exceptional student education (ESE) certification fulfills the reading highly qualified designation. This topic has been under much discussion by the Department due to its complexity. We are pleased to be able to provide you with the following information:

- Teachers with any ESE certification to match the ESE table in the Course Code Directory who teach either the basic reading courses or the ESE reading courses to ESE students in grades K-6 are considered highly qualified.
- Teachers with any ESE certification to match the ESE table in the Course Code Directory who teach either the basic reading courses or the ESE reading courses to ESE students grades 7-12 and have reading certification or the reading endorsement are considered highly qualified.
- Teachers with any ESE certification to match the ESE table in the Course Code Directory who teach either the basic reading courses or the ESE reading courses to ESE students in grades 7-12

JIM WARFORD
K - 12 Chancellor

but are not certified or endorsed in reading are not considered highly qualified. They must, at a minimum, earn a reading endorsement by June 30, 2006, in order to be considered highly qualified. The reading courses taught at grades 7 through 12 require intensive and specialized strategies to address adolescent literacy skills.

The courses that require reading certification or the reading endorsement are:

Grades 7-8		Grades 9-12	
Reading: 6-8 (ESE)	7810020	Reading: 9-12 (ESE)	7910100
M/J Reading 1	1008010	Life Skills Reading: 9-12 (ESE)	7910400
M/J Reading 1 Advanced	1008020	Reading I	1008300
M/J Reading 2	1008040	Reading II	1008310
M/J Reading 2 Advanced	1008050	Advanced Reading	1008320
M/J Reading 3	1008070	Reading III	1008330
M/J Reading 3 Advanced	1008080		
M/J Intensive Reading	1000010	Intensive Reading	1000410
M/J Intensive Language Arts	1000000	Intensive Language Arts	1000400

We encourage your districts to continue to provide professional development activities that incorporate methods that emphasize the five key components in the area of effective reading instruction. Teachers must be kept abreast of the latest scientifically-based research in order to appropriately teach students with disabilities to read. In addition to your districts' professional development activities, you may want to contact your local Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Center for information regarding training in your region.

If you need additional assistance regarding the reading endorsement requirements for ESE teachers, please contact Ms. Lezlie Cline or Ms. Evy Friend at (850) 245-0478 or by electronic mail at Lezlie.Cline@fldoe.org or Evy.Friend@fldoe.org. Thank you for what you do each day to serve Florida's exceptional students and your patience as we navigate the reading endorsement process.

JW/lcr

cc: Exceptional Student Education Directors
Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Reading Supervisors
District Language Arts Supervisors
Staff Development Directors
Elementary School Principals
Middle School Principals
High School Principals
Certification Specialists
FDLRS Managers
Special Education Department University Chairpersons
Professional Development Partnership Coordinators
Lee Sherry, CSPD Project Director