

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

To: District Professional Development Contacts

From: Kathryn S. Hebda

Date: May 31, 2005

Subject: THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S TEACHER-TO-TEACHER INITIATIVE

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative: Supporting Success is an effort to assist our nation's teachers through teacher roundtables, regional workshops, a national Research-to-Practice Summit and electronic teacher updates. The Department is pleased to provide information about this Initiative, which supports our goal for a high performing workforce through high quality professional development. The initiative has brought together some of the nation's most effective teachers and education experts to share with their colleagues research-based practices and proven methods of using data to inform instruction. Educators interested in viewing the Teacher-to-Teacher initiative may do so at <http://www.paec.org/teacher2teacher/index.asp>.

Florida teachers interested in participating in online professional development opportunities, including this initiative, should be made aware of the following information:

- The use of online professional development can be an acceptable professional development delivery method as long as the component meets the criteria outlined in the Florida Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol.

KATHRYN S. HEBDA, CHIEF
BUREAU OF EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

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- Before registering for online courses such as the eLearning modules from the U.S. Department of Education Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative activities, Florida teachers should contact their district professional development department to make sure that the proposed activities meet the needs of the teacher (through their approved individual professional development plan) and the needs of the school district as specified in the school improvement plan.
- The approved component must meet all the criteria in the Florida Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol including appropriate follow-up to ensure transfer into professional practice and evaluation of the impact of the training upon student achievement.
- Each district has final authority regarding the awarding of inservice points for all professional development activities, and must include them in their Master Inservice Plan.

Please note these specific instructions for participating in the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative activities:

- Florida teachers must submit the Course Overview page (from the website) for each session to their school district professional development offices *prior to registration*. This Overview page is required so that district offices may determine corresponding state codes.
- Upon completion, Florida teachers must submit the eLearning Certificate of Completion form to their school district professional development offices. Additional information regarding Florida's professional development standards and provider requirements is available at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/profdev/inserv.htm#providers>.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Henry Pollock, Educator Retention Program Director, at 850 245-0546 or email at henry.pollock@fldoe.org.