MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: October 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Announcing the Science of Reading Online Professional Learning Course

The Florida Department of Education (Department) is pleased to announce the launch of a new online professional learning course, Science of Reading: An Introduction. The course is designed to upskill educators to ensure they are equipped with the foundational knowledge to support effective delivery of evidence-based literacy instruction to meet the needs of all students. The development of the introductory course is another step toward implementing the Department’s vision to improve literacy achievement for all students in Florida. Districts are encouraged to consider awarding five (5) inservice points for completion of the Science of Reading: An Introduction course, which may be used toward the forty (40) hour reading requirement for renewal of a professional certificate, pursuant to State Board Rule 6A-4.0051, Florida Administrative Code.

Throughout the course, participants will deepen their knowledge about the science of reading, gain an understanding of how the brain develops and explore how word recognition and language comprehension are critical to skilled reading. Finally, the course will provide practical ways to incorporate the principles of the science of reading into instruction.

The course content is designed specifically for K-12 classroom educators but may also be useful for administrators, other school personnel, pre-service teachers and college and university faculty to gain a better understanding of the science of reading.

The Department has launched the Science of Reading: An Introduction course on the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services online platform (BEESS Portal to Professional Learning Alternatives). Enrollment for this independent study course is now open and provided at no cost to educators.

We look forward to supporting schools and districts as they strengthen literacy knowledge and instruction to positively impact all students.

POB/pm

cc: District Reading Contacts
    Deans/Directors of Teacher Preparations Programs
    Deans/Directors of Educational Leadership Programs