

January 6, 2003

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Florida's Educational Service Providers

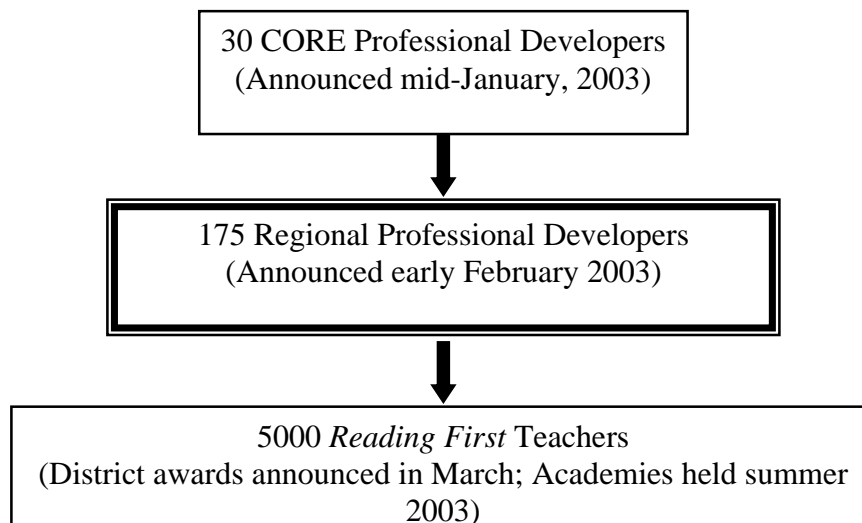
**FROM:** Mary Laura Openshaw, Director  
Just Read, Florida!

**SUBJECT:** Application for *Reading First* **Regional** Professional Developers

We need your assistance to identify **175 highly qualified professionals to be *Reading First* Regional Professional Developers**. These professionals will be provided with one week, all-expenses paid, of intense instruction that will prepare them to conduct summer academies for teachers from *Reading First* schools. Being selected as a regional professional developer is an honor. It is also a commitment of expertise and time. The attached application package details the qualifications and the time commitment.

This application process is the second step of our biggest undertaking to provide high quality professional development to every K-3 teacher in *Reading First* schools. We will complete the first step this month when we announce 30 CORE professional developers on January 17, 2003.

The statewide professional development is set up in tiers. The first tier of professional developers consists of 30 CORE professional developers. This application is for the second tier of approximately 175 developers who are located regionally and locally. All of these developers will ultimately conduct professional development for all K-3 Florida teachers.



Memo to Florida's Educational Service Providers  
January 6, 2003  
Page 2

Please note that since *Reading First* is a six-year grant and since we plan to offer Academies each summer, candidates may, if willing, serve as a regional professional developers throughout the entire grant period. At this point, we are asking for commitment for the summer of 2003 only. It should also be noted that, although our intent is for the regional developers to serve in their school district or in close proximity, there may be occasions when the regional professional developer would, based on need in another part of the state, be asked to travel to that Academy site. The Department would reimburse for all travel expenses should the need arise. Additionally, a stipend of \$300 per day will be paid to *Reading First* **Regional** Professional Developers who are not on contract with their school district/agency at the time of their training role at the summer Academies.

We believe that professional development must be the first priority of every *Reading First* school. We cannot afford to leave any child behind, and having a whole-state effort is the only way to accomplish that goal. I am asking you to carefully consider this request to nominate your most highly qualified staff members and to support this initiative by making this professional development a priority. Having *Reading First* professional developers on your staff will distinguish your organization from others in the state. I know that the statewide professional development initiative will not be sufficient for all teachers and schools. Many will need additional assistance as they encounter challenges, and this is when your staff will be invaluable to them.

Please contact Barbara Elzie with any questions that you may have. She can be reached at 850.921.9969 or [barbara.elzie@FLDOE.org](mailto:barbara.elzie@FLDOE.org). I look forward to our continued relationship to improve Florida schools. Thank you, and Just Read, Florida!

be/sv

Attachment: Application for *Reading First* Regional Developers

cc: Secretary Jim Horne  
John Winn  
Larry Wood  
Betty Coxe  
Carl Blackwell  
David Armstrong  
Florida School Districts  
Reading First District Contacts  
Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services  
Bureau of Safe Schools and School Support  
Bureau of Improving Academic Standards and School Performance  
Bureau of Professional Development  
Area Centers for Educational Enhancement  
Project Central  
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System

Florida Inclusion Network  
Institute for Small and Rural Districts  
CSPD/Professional Development Partnerships  
Title I Regional Coordinators  
Florida League of Teachers and National Board Certified teachers  
FLaRE  
Regional Consortia (PAEC, NEFEC, Heartland)  
Deans of Education at Universities and Colleges/Community College Presidents  
Florida Learning Alliance  
Florida Education Association  
Florida Association of District School Superintendents