MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
    School District Assistant Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: February 2, 2018

SUBJECT: Schools of Excellence – Professional Certificate Renewal Credit


This memorandum provides frequently asked questions and answers to assist school districts with the implementation of the specified provision relating to the substitution of employment at a designated School of Excellence for inservice points toward the renewal of a Professional Certificate.

HL/zh

Attachment

cc: School District Human Resources Directors
    School District Personnel Directors
    School District Certification Partners
    School District Staff Development Directors
Q-01. How will instructional personnel know if they are employed at a School of Excellence?

A-01. On October 18, 2017, the State Board of Education approved the list of schools designated as
Schools of Excellence. As created by the 2017 legislature, Schools of Excellence earned points to
be ranked in the 80th percentile or higher in the school grade calculation for their school grouping
for at least two of the last three years. Please refer to the list of schools posted with the board
meeting materials at www.fldoe.org/board/meetings.

Q-02. How many points can instructional personnel earn if they are employed at a designated School of
Excellence?

A-02. Instructional Personnel employed at a designated School of Excellence may substitute one (1)
school year of employment at a School of Excellence for twenty (20) inservice points, up to sixty
(60) points total in a five-year cycle, toward the renewal of a Professional Certificate.

Q-03. When can instructional personnel begin to earn credit for one year of employment at a designated
School of Excellence?

A-03. The 2017-2018 school year is the earliest that instructional personnel can substitute credit for one
year of employment at a designated School of Excellence. Instructional personnel must work a
minimum of ninety-nine (99) days to earn credit for one year of employment.

Q-04. How will points be awarded to instructional personnel employed at a School of Excellence?

A-04. Each certified individual employed at a designated School of Excellence may be awarded twenty
(20) inservice points for the 2017-2018 school year. If the school maintains the three-year
designation as a School of Excellence, each certified individual employed at the school during the
respective designation years can earn another twenty (20) inservice points for the 2018-2019
school year and an additional twenty (20) inservice points for the 2019-2020 school year.

Q-05. What happens if a school loses the School of Excellence designation?

A-05. If the school loses the three-year designation, instructional personnel can only be awarded points
for employment during the school year for which the school earned or maintained the School of
Excellence designation.

Q-06. What happens if an individual changes employment moving to or away from a School of
Excellence?

A-06. An individual who changes employment only earns credit for a year of employment at a School
of Excellence if s/he works a minimum of ninety-nine (99) days at the designated school.

Q-07. Can credit for being employed at a School of Excellence be used to satisfy the required renewal
credit for subject specialization or for teaching students with disabilities?

A-07. No. Credit earned for teaching at a School of Excellence may be used only to satisfy general
renewal credit. It cannot be used to satisfy credit for subject specialization or for teaching
students with disabilities.

Q-08. How will the renewal credit for employment at a School of Excellence be verified?

A-08. During the year prior to expiration of the professional certificate, educators may select School of
Excellence experience as a renewal method when they complete their renewal application.
Authorized school employers maintain local records of inservice points earned by their
employees and verify these records at the time of renewal through the educator certification
system.