

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

F. PHILIP HANDY, *Chairman*

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Vice Chairman*

Members

DONNA G. CALLAWAY

JULIA L. JOHNSON

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

PHOEBE RAULERSON

LINDA K. TAYLOR

John L. Winn
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 19, 2005

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jeanine Blomberg

SUBJECT: Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund Application, 2005-06

We are pleased to provide you with the Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2005-06 Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund Application. These Title II funds can be used in a variety of ways as specified in the RFA but are particularly appropriate to assist in increasing the supply of highly effective teachers and improving the quality of instructional leadership. The activities authorized under this program allow districts to focus implementation in areas where the need is the greatest.

There are several unique provisions related to this program. First, the additional requirement specified for 2003-04 remains for this program in school year 2005-06. This requirement is that not less than 10 percent of the district's allocation must be spent on training in support of Florida's reading initiative, Just Read, Florida! Each applicant is asked to describe how the activities in this project will support the reading initiative, consistent with the *Reading Program Specifications* for Just Read, Florida! These specifications can be found at <http://www.justreadflorida.com>.

Secondly, you are strongly encouraged to first meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirement of assisting teachers in becoming highly qualified prior to hiring teachers from this fund source. These activities, as all other professional development activities, must meet the definition of professional development activities described in section 9101(34) of the No Child

JEANINE BLOMBERG
CHIEF OF STAFF

District Superintendents

May 19, 2005

Page 2

Left Behind Act. Specifically, this means that the professional development activities must be comprised of more than a single-day workshop or conference.

Thirdly, for the 2004-05 school year, the Legislature required (in Appropriations Act proviso language), that for Teacher Professional Development Programs, funds would not be disbursed to any district until the superintendent certified the accuracy of the staff in-service education participation hours reported to the Department of Education. Additionally the Legislature directed that funds be directed by the Commissioner to meet legislative student achievement and professional development goals, with an emphasis on scientifically-based reading methods, and that funds allocated to school districts be used to address needs identified by student achievement data. It is likely that the 2005-06 Appropriations Act will contain similar provisions.

We look forward to receiving your application for these funds. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Peggy Primicerio via email at peggy.primicerio@fldoe.org or call 850-245-0501.

JB/mka

cc: Title II Project Directors

Attachments