

## **Gifted Add-on Endorsement**

The Brevard Public Schools Gifted Add-on Endorsement Program is a state-approved, five-course program which teachers in Brevard can complete in order to request the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) to add Gifted Endorsement to their teaching certificates. This program is designed to enable participants to add an area to an already-existing teaching certificate; once added, the Gifted Endorsement remains on the certificate as long as the teacher holds a valid teaching certificate in Florida. The certificate area(s) can be elementary or secondary.

Brevard County teachers who have Gifted students in their classes and teachers who wish to add the Gifted Endorsement to their certificates, in order to have Gifted students in their classes, are the primary target groups for this program. Gifted inservice courses can be found in Frontline by searching the word GIFTED. Courses are offered 4 times per year (September, January, March, and April). Upon completion of the Brevard Public Schools Add-on Endorsement Program in Gifted, participants complete a district add on endorsement application through the DOE and submit a payroll deduction form to Certification to add the Gifted Endorsement to their certificate.

### Five courses comprise the program:

- Nature and Needs of the Gifted
- Procedures and Curriculum for Gifted
- Guidance and Counseling of the Gifted
- Special Populations of Gifted
- Creativity in Gifted.

Each completed inservice course is the equivalent of a three-semester-hour college course; 60 inservice points are credited to the teacher upon successful completion of each course. These courses are “all or none”; either the participant completes the entire course and earns 60 credits, or he/she earns no credits for partial completion. The inservice courses are not convertible to college credit. If a participant took Gifted courses through an accredited college, and did not complete a program, participants can apply to have the endorsement added to their certificate and the DOE will issue a Statement of Eligibility outlining what courses can be completed in our district add on program.

To use the courses for certification in Gifted Endorsement, all five courses must be successfully completed within the rules of the program. All five courses are offered within a two-year time span currently, and all five courses are offered online. Brevard County teachers may “mix and match” courses from colleges, online approved courses from districts or the state agency, and inservice courses in Brevard to achieve completion of their five required courses.

Beginning in 2018, the Gifted Endorsement Program courses are paid for through Title II funds. There is not a tuition fee for full time Brevard Public School teachers. Special Note: Charter school teachers (who work at school accepting Title II funds), will need to ensure they have their principal’s approval prior to registering for a course. The participant fee for charter schools will be \$250 per course. Participants that are a “No Show” or who “withdraw after the course begins” will be charged a participant fee.

For information about program content and current registration information, contact Lynnette Thorstensen ([thorstensen.lynnette@brevardschools.org](mailto:thorstensen.lynnette@brevardschools.org)), or 633-1000, ext. 11175. For information about in-service credit, contact the Office of Professional Learning and Development.