

READING ENDORSEMENT

Reading Endorsement

Add-On Certification Program

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the Reading Endorsement Add-On Certification Program?

Florida Department of Education requires that teachers who want to teach reading at the secondary level be certified in Reading. Teachers can be certified through the Reading K-12 coverage or the Reading Endorsement Program (five courses). To be certified, the teacher must complete the Reading K-12 coverage or Reading Endorsement Program and add it to his/her professional certificate. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, intensive reading interventions must be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. This applies to ALL teachers delivering intensive reading instruction (Tier 3) in K-12 classrooms. The Just Read, Florida! Office has stated that teachers can be “in progress” which means the teacher completed a minimum of two competencies per year until course requirements have been met.

What is required to get the Reading Endorsement?

There are five courses required for the Reading Endorsement. Each of these courses is grounded in research that addresses the five elements of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. The courses also include the application of research-based reading instruction, reading assessments, and the application and foundations of differentiation. Action research components will begin in Course 1 and be integrated throughout all courses leading to the Reading Demonstration of Accomplishment-Competency 5.

What are the courses that are required for the endorsement as of July 1, 2012?

- **Competency 1 - Foundations of Reading Instruction** (Competency 1-Foundations in Language and Cognition/ LETRS- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 2-Application of Research-Based Instructional Practices** (Competency 2-Foundations of Research-Based Practices/FORPD- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 3-Foundations of Assessment** (Competency 3-Foundations of Assessment- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 4-Foundations and Applications of Differentiated Instruction** (Competency 4/5-Foundations and Applications of Differentiated Instruction- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 5-Demonstration of Accomplishment** (Competency 6-Practicum K-12 prior to July 1, 2012)

Why were changes made to the Reading Endorsement Program?

The reading endorsement course indicators were updated by the Florida Department of Education. The updated courses contain research conducted since the National Reading Panel Report was published in 2000. The new courses have also been aligned to the Florida Standards.

I have completed some of the competencies of the old Reading Endorsement, but not all of them; how do I proceed?

If a teacher completed courses under the old reading endorsement program, the courses will count toward the new endorsement. After July 1, 2012, additional courses that teachers complete will reflect the new competencies and indicators. For example, if a teacher has completed Competency 1, 2, and 3 under the old endorsement, he/she will need to complete Competency 4 and Competency 5 after July 1, 2012.

Do I still need courses if I completed Competency 1, Competency 2, Competency 3 and Competency 4/5 under the old program?

Yes. If you have completed these four courses, you need to complete the new Competency 5 Demonstration of Accomplishment as the final course.

What credit do I get for taking the Reading Endorsement courses?

Each of the Reading Endorsement courses is worth 60 in-service points for a total of 300 points. Reading in-service points earned in a professional certificate validity period can be “banked” for future use in renewal of certificates. Under current banking rules, teachers who hold a temporary certificate can “bank points” toward their first professional renewal; teachers who hold a professional certificate can “bank points” until they need them.

Who is offering these courses?

All Reading Endorsement Components are offered free of charge to Brevard County full-time teachers through the School Board of Brevard County’s Professional Learning and Development Office. The Office of Professional Learning and Development, in conjunction with the Office of Leading and Learning, is currently working on optional pathways for delivery of the endorsement courses. These will be added to our current reading endorsement plan upon completion and final state board rule.

Are any of the reading courses online?

Competency 1, Competency 2, Competency 3, and Competency 4 are offered online through the North East Florida Educational Consortium (NEFEC). There is a tuition fee for the NEFEC courses. The web address to register: <http://www.nefec.org/>

Competency 4 PDA-ESE is offered in an online format and is coordinated by FDLRS/East. For additional information contact: Theobald.Heather@brevardschools.org.

Who is eligible to take the add-on certification courses?

The Reading Endorsement add-on certification is available to teachers who currently hold or who are eligible for a valid Florida Professional Educator's Certificate based on a Bachelor's or higher degree and who are currently teaching full-time. Participants must implement their training in their own classrooms through assignments and case studies.

I teach in an elementary school. Do I need this endorsement?

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, intensive reading interventions must be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. This applies to all K-12 teachers who deliver intensive instruction in reading (Tier 3).

I have a temporary certificate. Can I take the courses required for the Reading Endorsement?

Candidates with temporary certificates must show proof of eligibility for a Professional Certificate prior to the district's verification of completion of the program. Reading endorsement can only be added to a professional teaching certificate. Teachers in our district Professional Development Certification Program are required to take select reading courses within the endorsement program.

I started taking Reading Endorsement courses in another county. Do I have to start all over again?

No. Your in-service credit earned in other school districts may be applied to the reading endorsement program as long as that credit was earned as part of an approved Add-on Reading Endorsement Program. No partial course or component can be transferred from another district to Brevard County.

I have a Master's degree in Reading. Do I have to take these courses?

There are two ways to be certified in Florida in Reading. One way is to hold a Master's in Reading with at least 30 semester hours in specific courses in Reading laid out by the Department of Education and to pass the Reading Subject Area Exam. The other way is to complete a state-approved five-course Reading Endorsement Program. There are 15 specific required semester-hours-equivalent hours in this program.

I have taken some college reading courses. Can I use these for the Reading Endorsement?

College credit from an accredited institution of higher education may be used to satisfy component (course) requirements; these courses must match one of the Brevard County Reading Endorsement Program courses and must have been completed on or after January 1, 1998. Approved three-semester hour college courses can be converted to in-service points. An official college transcript must be provided by the applicant to the Office of Professional Learning and Development. An “automatic transfer list” is accessible on the Professional Development web site. If the Reading course is not listed there, send together: (1) a course description from the college catalog and (2) the official transcript to Dinah Kramer, in Certification via courier.

How do I get information about the reading courses offered and registration?

To view and register for Reading Endorsement courses, log into ProGOE², select Reading Endorsement under “*Course by Subject.*”

What are the Reading Banking rules?

If Reading credit is earned under a five-year, professional, renewable certificate, DOE allows the “banking” of reading credits.

Points for any reading courses taken may be banked if you have enough credits for the renewal of your certificate without using those reading credits. The reading credits must be earned **after January 1, 1998.**

Reading credit is also “bankable” if it is earned on a temporary certificate. However, if you hold a temporary certificate, those earned and banked points **MUST be used in the first renewal of your professional certificate** and cannot be banked past that expiration date.

Do I need to continue taking reading for future renewal of my professional certificate?

House Bill 7069 includes specific in-service requirements for renewal of a professional certificate. Beginning with a validity date of July 1, 2020, or thereafter, educators who hold certification in an area that includes reading instruction or intervention for any students in kindergarten through grade 6, will be required to earn a minimum of two college credits or the equivalent of a 40 in-service points in the use of explicit, systematic and sequential approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness, and implementing multisensory intervention strategies. FDLRS is offering opportunities that fulfill part of this requirement. BEESS offers a Reading Difficulties, Disabilities, and Dyslexia-Revised course that counts toward the requirement. <https://fl-pda.org/independent/descriptions.aspx> Other courses will be posted on the home page of the Professional Learning and Development website as they are introduced.

Who do I contact for specific reading questions and assistance?

- For scheduling questions, in-service record questions, or Reading Endorsement Program requirements, email Lynnette Thorstensen, Professional Learning and Development.
- To locate a Reading Endorsement Course, log into ProGOE² and search under “*Course by Subject.*”
- Email Dinah Kramer for questions regarding the application to add the Reading

Endorsement and for transferring college credits/courses towards the Reading Endorsement.