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July 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
Middle and High School Principals

FROM: Evan B. Lefsky, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Just Read, Florida!

RE: Legislative Requirements for Content Area Reading Professional Development

As you may be aware, the 2006 Legislature established in House Bill 7087 (F. S 1003.413) that the Department will emphasize reading instruction professional development for content area teachers, and a package of professional development for content area teachers will be created for the 2006-07 school year.

This Content Area Reading Professional Development (CAR-PD) was announced in the K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan Guidance for 2006-2007. It stated that this option would be available for the 2007-08 school year, and work had begun on that initiative. The Legislature, however, established the availability date as 2006-07. Content area teachers include, but are not limited to, math, science, social studies, language arts, fine arts, and career and technical educators. In essence, all content area teachers in grades 6-12 would be eligible for CAR-PD. Completion of CAR-PD would make a content area teacher eligible to serve as a reading intervention teacher in their content area class pursuant to the approved K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan. Teachers who are teaching academic reading courses, however, would still need to earn the reading endorsement or K-12 reading certification in order to be infield and highly qualified to teach reading. Please note that only degreed teachers with the reading certification or reading endorsement may teach the academic reading courses.

EVAN B. LEFSKY, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUST READ, FLORIDA!

In preparation for this initiative, Just Read, Florida! (JRF) met with a group of career and technical educators in December 2005 and also convened a group of content area teachers in April 2006 to ask their guidance in developing the professional development package. CAR-PD will be a package of 150 inservice points with reading endorsement indicators drawn primarily from the areas of vocabulary and comprehension. The CAR-PD package will consist of Florida Online Reading Professional Development (FOR-PD) which is 60 inservice points, the CAR-PD Academy which is 60 inservice points, and a 30 hour practicum. The face-to-face academy and practicum are being developed and delivered by the Florida Literacy and Reading Excellence (FLaRE) Center. We are strongly urging that you identify the content area teachers who will be participating in CAR-PD as soon as possible and ask them to enroll in one of the fall or spring sessions of FOR-PD so that they can concentrate on the 60-hour academy and the practicum in the spring of 2007 or during the 2007-2008 school year. FOR-PD registration can be accessed at <http://www.itrc.ucf.edu/forpd/>.

CAR-PD does not satisfy requirements for the reading endorsement, and therefore there would be no reflection on an educator's teaching certificate. However, the inservice credit earned will be appropriate for renewal of all certification subject coverages. Academic content area teachers would still have the option of completing the reading endorsement or full K-12 reading certification. In addition, JRF will later develop the complementary 150-hour professional development package, CAR-PD PLUS, so that an academic content area teacher taking CAR-PD could also take CAR-PD PLUS and earn the academic reading endorsement.

Career and technical educators, both those who have a state issued teaching certificate and those who do not, are excellent candidates for the CAR-PD package. In addition, those teachers may enroll in and complete the district Add-On Reading Endorsement program if they wish to acquire advanced knowledge in teaching reading. Career and technical teachers who have state-issued teaching certificates in certification areas based on a bachelor's or higher degree may add the endorsement via the standard district process and it will appear on their certificate. They would be considered highly qualified to teach reading courses. Those teachers with a district-issued non-degree career/technical certificate may complete the district add-on reading endorsement if they wish, but, upon completion, they would not be considered highly qualified to teach reading courses, and an endorsement cannot be shown on the non-degreed certificate. This is due to the No Child Left Behind definition of a highly qualified teacher which requires a Bachelor's degree to be deemed highly qualified.

More details will follow this memo, but we wanted you to be aware of this new flexibility for delivering reading intervention through content area courses.

EBL/be

CC: Reading Endorsement Contacts
K-12 Reading Plans Contacts
Staff Development Contacts