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K-12: 2005-91

July 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
Deans of Colleges of Education

FROM: Jeanine Blomberg, Chief of Staff

Mary Laura Openshaw, Director
Just Read, Florida! Office

SUBJECT: Use of District Add-On ESOL Endorsement Earned through College Credit to Complete Reading Endorsement

On March 4, 2005, the Department released Memorandum *REESOL Professional Development* (K-12 2005-26) regarding a new option to obtain the Reading Endorsement. The REESOL Plan option was initially approved for certain teachers who obtained the ESOL Endorsement through completion of a school district's approved ESOL Endorsement Add-on Program based upon 300 hours of inservice credit. This memorandum addresses the issue of eligibility to complete the REESOL Plan for the Reading Endorsement for teachers who have earned certification in the ESOL Endorsement based upon college course work. Assisting teachers in receiving training in the latest research-based reading instructional

JEANINE BLOMBERG
CHIEF OF STAFF

methods is a priority of the Department, and we are pleased to provide this additional eligibility information to Professional Development Directors to clarify the process of determining eligibility for a teacher to complete an approved REESOL Plan.

Local school district staff are solely responsible for determining eligibility for their teachers to participate in the REESOL Plan. The Bureau of Educator Certification cannot make this determination. The REESOL Plan is grounded in a cross-walk of reading competencies with state-approved ESOL competencies, which may be specifically identified in the approved ESOL Endorsement Add-on Program. School districts have the authority through their approved Add-on Programs to utilize college credits toward inservice components when district staff can identify in them the specific competencies required in each inservice component. District staff should utilize this process when reviewing a teacher's eligibility for REESOL participation.

Based upon these provisions, individuals with the following types of ESOL training should be considered eligible to participate by a district professional development director or their designee in the REESOL Plan for obtaining the Reading Endorsement:

- An official transcript reflecting completion of a Florida state approved teacher preparation program in ESOL K-12;
- An official transcript reflecting completion of a Florida state approved teacher preparation program in ESOL Endorsement, or
- Official verification from a Florida school district of completion of an approved ESOL Endorsement Add-on Program (300 hours). This may include appropriate college credits in accordance with the district's approved plan.

Please note that individuals who hold certification in the ESOL Endorsement based upon the "grandfather provision" available through September 1994, or who have earned ESOL K-12 certification by passing the subject area examination are not eligible to participate in the REESOL Plan. Those teachers may complete requirements for the Reading Endorsement through appropriate college credit or an approved district add-on program in Reading Endorsement.

We recognize the significant partnerships our districts have with colleges of education in providing ESOL training to our teachers and anticipate that this memorandum will both support those partnerships and benefit eligible teachers by providing them with the opportunity to complete this additional option for certification in the Reading Endorsement.

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