

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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May 12, 2008

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** Dr. Frances Haithcock

**SUBJECT:** Flexibility Provided to Districts Regarding Reading/Literacy Coaches for 2008-09

The implementing legislation for the 2008-09 General Appropriations Act (GAA) provides flexibility in the use of the funds from research-based reading instruction categorical if a district school board finds and declares in a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the school board that the funds are urgently needed to maintain school board specified academic classroom instruction. The school board may consider and approve an amendment to the school district operating budget transferring the identified amount of the categorical funds to the appropriate account for expenditure.

While flexibility is provided in the use of the reading categorical funds, the requirements for the K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan are still in effect. According to the Rule 6A-6.053 (K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading Plan):

(6)(b) "The district must ensure that the number of schools served by state, federal, or locally funded reading/literacy coaches is maintained or increased over the previous year and prioritized based on school need."

In order to provide districts with the greatest amount of flexibility in meeting this requirement, districts may:

1. Assign a coach to teach a class period of reading each day, as long as that classroom is used as a model and teachers are provided the opportunity to observe and debrief on a daily basis. The coach must provide professional development as their full time role.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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2. Assign a coach to serve two schools.
3. Provide coaching services to a school that previously had a full time site-based coach through other means, such as district coaches or peer coaching.

Districts are encouraged to work with the Just Read, Florida! office to ensure maximum flexibility, while still meeting the requirements of the K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan. For questions or concerns, please contact the Just Read, Florida! office at 850-245-0503.

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