

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Achieving Excellence: Putting Students First!



Office of Professional Development

To: Instructional Personnel

From: Joseph Noel, Ph.D., Coordinator of Professional Development

Date: June 26, 2018

Re: *ESE Requirements for Renewal of Professional Educator Certificates*

Facts to Know:

- Anyone renewing a **Florida professional certificate after July 2014** will be required to meet the certification requirements as outlined by the Florida Department of Education office of Certification Renewal: <http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/fl-educator-certification-renewal-requ.shtml>. This will not add to the total already required (six semester hours/120 in-service credits.)
- No one is exempt from meeting the requirement. It does not matter your certification, position or degree.
- It does not apply to District Vocational, Career and Tech, adult education and substitute certificates that are awarded by the district.
- A passing score on the Florida Subject Area Exam in Exceptional Student Education, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired or Speech Impaired **can be used** provided it was taken during the validity period of the professional certificate being renewed.
- In current legislation, the requirement to earn this ESE requirement must be completed within each renewal period of the Florida Professional Certificate. ***It is NOT a one-time requirement.***

Okeechobee Procedures:

- College courses that address instruction of students with disabilities or note differentiated instruction may be considered acceptable. A college transcript noting successful completion must be submitted to the Staff Development Office for approval. This course must have been taken during the renewal period.
- Currently, the Professional Development is accepting courses from FDLRS PDA Modules (Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System- Professional Development Alternatives) as options for the 20-hour requirement. These courses meet the requirement of *addressing instruction of students with disabilities*. (Gifted courses do not meet this requirement.) The link to access these free courses is <http://www.fl-pda.org/>.

- <http://pdportal.florida-ese.org/descriptions.aspx> also provides an additional course for Fine Arts teachers that can meet this requirement. *
- Each PDA course provides a different number of credits dependent upon the time to complete the coursework. Even though a teacher only needs the 20 hours, he or she may take any of the other courses to increase points for recertification **and** satisfy the 20 hour requirement.
- *Teaching Students with Disabilities* is a 20 hour independent Study that will meet this requirement and can be taken at any time.
- With any course completion, the Professional Development office will need the certificate to note completion for in-service credit.
- The following courses are acceptable forms of this requirement and can be accessed at <http://www.fl-pda.org/>.

Okeechobee PDA Acceptable 20 hour Requirement Courses

Facilitated Modules 60 in-service credits	Facilitated Modules 30 in-service credits	Independent Study 20 in-service credits
Assessment and Evaluation	Differentiating Mathematics Instruction	Teaching Students with Disabilities
Foundations of Exceptional Education	Differentiating Science Instruction	Positive Behavior Intervention Supports
Instructional Practices	Interpersonal Interactions and Participation	Effective Teaching Practices for Students with Disabilities: Focusing on the Content Areas
Language Development and Communication Skills	Facilitated Modules 20 in-service credits	Teaching Students with Disabilities in the Fine Arts (PD Portal)*
Positive Behavior Support	Introduction to Differentiating Instruction	
Transition	Formative Assessment for Differentiating Instruction	
Differentiating Reading Instruction for Students <i>Awards credit for Competency 4 of the Florida Reading Endorsement</i>	Technology for Student Success: An Introduction	
Technology for Student Success: Assistive Technology	Technology for Student Success: Assistive Technology	