

To: Master In-service Coordinator and Head of School

The Department of Education has issued a new rule for ALL those renewing or reinstating a Florida Professional Certificate.

I am attaching a questions and answers list for your convenience.

Here is an outline of the renewal and reinstatement requirements.

- Anyone renewing a state professional certificate after July 1, 2014, will be required to obtain one college credit or 20 in-service points in the area of teaching students with disabilities (SWD). This will not add to total already required (six semester hours/120 in-service points). Example: 100 master in-service points and 20 SWD master in-service points
- No one is exempt from meeting the requirement. It does not matter what you are certified in, whether or not you are teaching, what subject you are teaching, or what your degree major is in.
- A National Board certificate in Exceptional Needs Specialist - Early Childhood through Young Adult can be used to satisfy the requirement.
- A passing score on the Florida Subject Area Exam in Exceptional Student Education, Hearing Impairment, Visually Impaired, or Speech-Language Impaired can be used provided it was taken during the validity period of the professional certificate being renewed.
- If your certificate expires on June 30, 2014, you will NOT need to meet the new requirement during this renewal period provided the renewal application and fee are submitted by June 30, 2014, and provided you have met renewal requirements by June 30, 2014. You can not submit your application and fee to renew unless all points are posted or you have your official transcript showing the completed college credit.

#### FAQs from **ACSI MASTER INSERVICE PROGRAM**

#### **Can we develop SWD inservice programs at the school?**

- YES – Design inservice projects under the following component numbers:
  - 53001200 Learning Styles – Exceptional Education – here are some titles that might work for you.
    - Learning Styles of Students with Disabilities (SWD)
    - Brain-Based Education strategies for Students with Disabilities (SWD)
    - Multiple Intelligences Training – Your SWD Population
    - You can send me titles you have designed with a description for approval.
  - 53002600 ADD-ADHD – Titles that might work for you
    - Children with disabilities and ADD – Strategies

- Children with disabilities and ADHD – Strategies
- Introduction to the characteristics of Students with Disabilities and ADD or ADHD
- Introduction to the strategies for working with an SWD population and ADD or ADHD
- You can send me titles that have designed with a description for approval.
- 53003200 Introduction to Exceptional Education
  - You could also design introductory modules in one particular disability (i.e. Introduction to Reading Disabilities)
  - Introductory modules on Diagnosis of a particular disability
  - Families of Students with Disabilities – what are the challenges and the victories?
- 53004200 Special Education Learning Strategies
  - Special Education Learning Strategies for Early Childhood Education
  - Special Education Learning Strategies for Elementary Education
  - Middle School
  - High School
  - Transitioning Students with Disabilities into the workforce
  - Modules in content areas
    - Special Ed Strategies in Mathematics
    - Special Ed Strategies in English
    - Reading, Writing, Handwriting, Critical thinking, science, social studies, computer technology, art, music, physical education, movement, research skills, etc.

### How do I format the title for your office?

- Applications for inservice credit in SWD should be formatted as follows:
  - **SWD RENEWAL CREDITS** – Strategies in Mathematics for your SWD population
  - Always start with the **SWD RENEWAL CREDITS**

### Could we have already completed training that would meet these state requirements for SWD training?

- Absolutely!!!! I want you to go through your applications for the past four years checking for special education topics that you have had in your training program. There are many instances.
- SEND ME – the application numbers and the title. I will review the applications and if it meets the standards then I will reformat the title to include SWD RENEWAL CREDITS. Let your faculty help you review these applications. Then you can run new inservice reports for your faculty to see how many points they already have. This will help you redesign the rest of your inservice year and this summer.

#### **Are there online offerings for SWD module training?**

- The State of Florida Department of Education has online offerings: check [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)
- **William Carey University – (my university) will be designing 5 four hour online modules immediately. The design team begins its work this Tuesday. We will be putting them up online at the cost to the individual teacher of \$5.00 per module. Our recommendation is that teams of teachers work together to finish these modules.**

#### **If we have SWD experts in our school and community, can we use them?**

- Absolutely.

#### **Why do we have to do this, when we don't have a special education population?**

- The research shows there are many students who have unidentified disabilities that cause them to suffer slow developmental progress or to struggle under poor motivation. We can all use these valuable tools that the special educator has to share with us. I worked seventeen years in my Christian school with no special education program, but we knew there were always those students who did not thrive under our curriculum. We found important strategies to meet the needs of these children so that everyone would be successful.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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