

## **K-12 Reading Endorsement Add-on Certification**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. How does the reading endorsement interface with the reading certification? Can you take a test to satisfy a reading certification?**

The reading endorsement is a “rider” to other certifications. A reading endorsement is made up of 15 university course credit hours (or 30 inservice points) while reading certification consists of 30 university course credit hours or a Master’s Degree in Reading. In essence, the reading endorsement is a mid point in relationship to the reading certification.

Teachers with the 30 hours or Master’s Degree in Reading must take the reading certification test to earn the K-12 reading certification. There is no provision for teachers to obtain a certification in those areas requiring a Master’s Degree such as the reading certification by taking the certification test without completing the required coursework. There is no provision for teachers to take a test for the endorsement.

**2. Will the participants who successfully complete Reading Endorsement Programs be allowed to “bank” hours, similarly as provided in 6A-40051(5), Special provisions for teachers of limited English proficient students?**

Reading remains the number one priority of the Governor, the Commissioner, and the K-12 Public Schools Chancellor. In order to increase reading achievement of all Florida students, it is imperative that the state’s teachers receive the latest scientifically-based reading research to help them provide effective instruction to their students.

Banking means saving/carrying-over excess points from one validity/renewal period to the subsequent renewal period, and the provision is established in law Section 1012.585(3)(d), F.S. and in Rule 6A-4.0051(5), FAC. The use of a banking provision for the Reading Add-on Program is reasonable and ultimately best serves the needs of both students and teachers. Therefore, the Department will pursue the process of statutory revision and rule amendment to seek permission to bank hours for the reading endorsement.

**3. Who are required to successfully complete the Reading Add-on Endorsement? Elementary, and/or Secondary instructional personnel? What is to be their status by July 2006?**

As stated in the August 4, 2003, memo from Chancellor Warford, any teacher teaching a reading course at the secondary level will be required to have either the K-12 reading endorsement or K-12 reading certification. Additionally, any teacher teaching elementary reading courses must have one of the following qualifications: K-12 reading endorsement, K-12 reading certification, or elementary education certification. Federal law requirements of NCLB for teacher quality must be met by the end of the 2005-2006 school year – specifically, June 30, 2006. This requirement is reflected in Florida’s Course Code Director for teacher qualifications of reading courses with the date of July 1, 2006.

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**4. Do courses teachers may have already taken at a college or university count toward any competency (ies)?**

Yes, we highly encourage districts to utilize teacher transcript review conducted by the district as part of their reading endorsement add-on program. Several teachers in the district may have already taken at least one reading course and may be interested in working toward the reading endorsement. Districts can accept any reading coursework toward the reading endorsement and convert university course credit hours to add-on program inservice points as long as the reading coursework meets each of the following:

- Aligns with the reading endorsement competencies
- Was completed within the past five years

Some Florida teachers may have completed enough reading coursework to satisfy at least the majority of the reading endorsement requirements – 15 university credit hours of reading coursework that align with the reading endorsement competencies. In this case, it is important for these teachers to look at both their transcripts and the reading endorsement competencies to determine whether:

- They need to complete an additional course or courses in order to satisfy all six competencies, or
- Their transcripts contain sufficient coursework to meet all six of the reading endorsement competencies.

Because scientifically based reading research has impacted education and educational policy, it will be important for educators to realize the recency of reading courses as relevant.

Both the reading endorsement competencies and the information about applying for the reading endorsement are located in pdf documents on the Educator's Webpage at [www.justreadflorida.com](http://www.justreadflorida.com).

(See "Reading Endorsement Competencies" and "What I Need to Know to Qualify for the Reading Endorsement")

**5. Is there any possibility that DOE can consider certain progress down the road toward endorsement as "sufficient" or "in good faith" progress by July 1, 2006?**

No. Because of NCLB, districts will need to provide opportunities for their teachers assigned to teach the reading courses to earn the reading endorsement by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.