

## NASSAU COUNTY READING ENDORSEMENT OVERVIEW

Effective July 1, 2006, the FL DOE has established new certification requirements for teachers of Reading. Teachers who are assigned to teach intensive reading classes (as identified by specific course code directory numbers), but who are not certified in Reading, must obtain certification or the Reading Endorsement in order to meet new state certification requirements and to meet the federal NCLB "Highly Qualified" criteria.

In Florida, certification in Reading requires a Master's Degree. There are two ways to obtain the Reading Endorsement, which are to complete 15 hours of college coursework or to complete 300 hours of an approved RE inservice program.

Our district is providing the 300 hour RE inservice program to our designated reading teachers at no cost to them except their time, which is substantial since the program entails five 60-hour online course with classroom work included in each course. We have about 50 teachers in this program currently, all of whom are assigned to teach reading in grades 6-12.

When a cohort begins a class, a face-to-face hands-on orientation and work session is held during the school day in a lab. An additional work day with a sub provided is scheduled at least once a semester so that participants can complete some of the course work during the regular workday.

The cost to the district's Reading Staff Development budget for this training is substantial: \$270 per course, per person (\$150 stipend and \$120 course fee) for 4-5 of the courses. An additional stipend is paid upon completion of the RE Practicum. Unfortunately, that means we cannot open it up to teachers who are interested, but who are not currently assigned as secondary reading teachers in grades 7 and above.

However, one RE course is FREE and available to every teacher in the state, and is a 60-hour class: it is the **Florida Online Reading Professional Development (FOR-PD)**. All teachers are welcome to take it and receive the 60 points, which may be "banked" for a future validity period toward re-certification and which are in-field points for all subject areas. The website for registering for the FOR-PD course is: <http://www.itrc.ucf.edu/forpd>

Additionally, some RE courses are offered by the North East Florida Education Consortium and are open to all teachers. For information, visit [www.nefec.org](http://www.nefec.org)

All other Nassau RE courses are provided by the Beacon project out of Bay County, FL.

Questions:

Staff and Program Development  
Ext. 1248  
Joyce Menz or Wendy Hygema