

READING ENDORSEMENT
Add-On Certification Program
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the Reading Endorsement Add-On Certification Program?

Florida Department of Education requires that teachers who want to teach reading at the secondary level be certified in Reading. Teachers can be certified through the Reading K-12 coverage or the Reading Endorsement Program (five courses). To be certified, the teacher must complete the Reading K-12 coverage or Reading Endorsement Program and add it to his/her professional certificate. Beginning with the **2020-2021** school year, intensive reading interventions must be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. This applies to ALL teachers delivering intensive reading instruction (Intervention Course B-Substantially Deficient) in K-12 classrooms. The Just Read, Florida! Office has stated that teachers can be “in progress” which means the teacher completed a minimum of two reading competencies per year until endorsement course requirements have been met. Until a teacher has completed their requirements they will be considered Out of Field.

What is required to get the Reading Endorsement?

There are five courses required for the Reading Endorsement. Each of these courses is grounded in research that addresses the five elements of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. The courses also include the application of research-based reading instruction, reading assessments, and the application and foundations of differentiation. Action research components will begin in Course 1 and be integrated throughout all courses leading to the Reading Demonstration of Accomplishment-Competency 5.

What are the courses that are required for the endorsement as of July 1, 2012?

- **Competency 1 - Foundations of Reading Instruction** (Competency 1-Foundations in Language and Cognition/ LETRS- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 2-Application of Research-Based Instructional Practices** (Competency 2-Foundations of Research-Based Practices/FORPD- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 3-Foundations of Assessment** (Competency 3-Foundations of Assessment- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 4-Foundations and Applications of Differentiated Instruction** (Competency 4/5-Foundations and Applications of Differentiated Instruction- prior to July 1, 2012)
- **Competency 5-Demonstration of Accomplishment** (Competency 6-Practicum K-12 prior to July 1, 2012)

Why were changes made to the Reading Endorsement Program?

The reading endorsement course indicators were updated by the Florida Department of Education. The updated courses contain research conducted since the National Reading Panel Report was published in 2000. The new courses have also been aligned to the Florida Standards. The reading standards were reviewed by the DOE in 2019 and the standards implemented in 2011 are still in effect.

I have completed some of the competencies of the old Reading Endorsement, but not all of them; how do I proceed?

If a teacher completed courses under the old reading endorsement program, the courses will count toward the new endorsement. After July 1, 2012, additional courses that teachers complete will reflect the new competencies and indicators. For example, if a teacher has completed Competency 1, 2, and 3 under the old endorsement, he/she will need to complete Competency 4 and Competency 5 after July 1, 2012.

Do I still need courses if I completed Competency 1, Competency 2, Competency 3 and Competency 4/5 under the old program?

Yes. If you have completed these four courses, you need to complete the new Competency 5 Demonstration of Accomplishment as the final course.

What credit do I get for taking the Reading Endorsement courses?

Each of the Reading Endorsement courses is worth 60 in-service points for a total of 300 points. Reading in-service points earned in a professional certificate validity period can be “banked” for future use in renewal of certificates. Under current banking rules, teachers who hold a temporary certificate can “bank points” toward their first professional renewal; teachers who hold a professional certificate can “bank points” until they need them. Courses taken in college may be used for course equivalency in our endorsement program but are not eligible for banking.

Who is offering these courses?

All Reading Endorsement Components are offered free of charge to Brevard County full-time teachers through the School Board of Brevard County’s Professional Learning and Development Office. The Office of Professional Learning and Development, in conjunction with the Office of Leading and Learning is currently working on multiple pathways for delivery. These will be added to our current reading endorsement plan upon completion.

Are any of the reading courses online?

Competency 4 PDA-ESE is offered in an online format and is coordinated by FDLRS/East. Additional online courses are in development and will be ready for the 2020-2021 SY and beyond, free of charge to BPS teachers. Our newly approved endorsement program will also support some outside self-pay options for teachers.

Who is eligible to take the add-on certification courses?

The Reading Endorsement add-on certification is available to teachers who currently hold or who are eligible for a valid Florida Professional or Temporary Educator's Certificate based on a Bachelor's or higher degree and who are currently teaching full-time. Participants must implement their training in their own classrooms through assignments and case studies.

What is the difference between a reading endorsement and a reading certification?

A Reading Endorsement and a Reading Certification both serve the same function. An endorsement is additional coursework added to an already existing certificate. This coursework could have been taken as part of a district add on reading endorsement program or at a college.

A Reading Certification (subject coverage) requires a master's degree that meets Florida state board rule content requirements and the passing of the K-12 Reading test.

Teachers can either have a reading endorsement or a reading certification to meet the requirements of the new statute.

I teach in an elementary school. Do I need this endorsement?

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, intensive reading interventions must be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. This applies to all K-12 teachers who deliver intensive instruction in reading (Intervention Course B- Substantially Deficient).

I have a temporary certificate. Can I take the courses required for the Reading Endorsement?

Reading endorsement can be added to a Temporary Certificate. It will carry over to the Professional Certificate once the requirements are completed for the subject, contingent on the application process. Teachers in our district Professional Development Certification Program are required to take select reading courses within the endorsement program.

Do I have to have two classes completed before the start of the 2020-2021 school year if I am serving students substantially deficient in reading, but do not have a reading endorsement or certification?

No, teachers will not be considered out of field until August of 2020-2021, if they are serving students enrolled in Intervention Course B and do not currently hold a certification or endorsement in reading. Teachers would need to complete a minimum of two reading endorsement courses per school year to be considered "in progress" towards the endorsement. Summer courses do count toward the previous school year. (Example, summer of 2021 would count toward the 20-21 SY).

At what point is a teacher “flagged” as needing to complete a reading endorsement or certification? For example, a teacher receives a new student mid-year who requires intensive reading intervention, and it’s the first student in his/her class that has been identified as substantially deficient in reading and enrolled in Intervention Course B. When does this teacher have to start the reading endorsement courses?

The moment a student is identified and enrolled in an Intervention Course B- Substantially Deficient. If a student is coded in Intervention Course B and you are the teacher of record for the intensive reading instruction, you are then considered “out of field” the first day the student is in your class. You have a year from that date to start taking on your two Reading Endorsement courses for that year. To stay in progress you will continue to take a minimum of two classes per year until all course requirements are met. Teachers “in progress” time period is dependent on the student’s first day identified as needing intervention.

Is there an alternate pathway to reading endorsement?

Yes, the State Board of Education approved an amendment to rule [6A-4.0292, F.A.C.](#) that allows a teacher who receives a passing score on the Reading K-12 Florida Teacher Certification Exam to add the endorsement to their certificate without taking any endorsement coursework. The current pass rate for first time takers is 64% (as of 2018)

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5627/urlt/firsttime-ftce-examinees.pdf>

Once the exam has been passed, teachers must use the district application to add endorsement, not the subject area. Please see the directions [here](#).

I took the reading endorsement test several years ago, but never added it to my certificate. Can I still add it by using those test scores?

Possibly, however if the Reading K-12 FTCE test results are more than 10 years old, you will no longer be able to use that score.

I started taking Reading Endorsement courses in another Florida county. Do I have to start all over again?

No. Your in-service credit earned in other Florida school districts may be applied to the reading endorsement program as long as that credit was earned as part of an approved Add-on Reading Endorsement Program. Transfer of in-service records is not automatic. It is the responsibility of the teacher to request the in-service records be sent to Brevard Public Schools. We cannot accept records directly from a teacher, the records must come with official signatures from the sending district.

I have a Master’s degree in Reading. Do I have to take district endorsement courses?

No, a master’s degree with a graduate major in Reading and the K-12 Reading Subject Area Exam is used to obtain a subject coverage in reading (reading certified). Teachers may also receive an endorsement by using courses earned in a master’s or bachelor’s program. Specific rules for certification in reading can be found [here](#).

I took all of the reading endorsement courses through a Florida state approved college program, but never added it to my certificate. Can I still add it?

Yes, you will find instructions on our Professional Learning and Development website, as well as our Certification webpage. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to add this to your teaching certificate.

I took some reading courses in college, can I use them toward a reading endorsement through our district endorsement program?

College credit from an accredited institution of higher education may be used to satisfy component (course) requirements; these courses must match one of the Brevard County Reading Endorsement Program courses and must have been completed on or after January 1, 1998. Approved three-semester hour college courses can be converted to in-service points for the purpose of **endorsement only**, college courses cannot be used for certificate renewal unless they were earned during the current validity period of the certificate. College courses cannot be banked. An official college transcript must be provided by the applicant to the Office of Professional Learning and Development. An “[automatic transfer list](#)” is accessible on the Professional Development web site. If the Reading course is not listed there, send together: (1) a course description from the college catalog and (2) the official transcript to Lynnette Thorstensen, in Certification via courier.

How do I get information about the reading courses offered and registration?

To view and register for Reading Endorsement courses, log into ProGOE², select Reading Endorsement under “*Course by Subject.*”

What are the Reading Banking rules for Reading In-service Courses?

If Reading in-service credit is earned under a five-year, professional, renewable certificate, DOE allows the “banking” of reading credits.

Points for any in-service reading courses taken may be banked if you have enough credits for the renewal of your certificate without using those reading credits. The in-service reading credits must be earned **after January 1, 1998.**

Reading credit is also “bankable” if it is earned on a temporary certificate. However, if you hold a temporary certificate, those earned and banked points **MUST be used in the first renewal of your professional certificate** and cannot be banked past that expiration date.

Do I need to continue taking reading for future renewal of my professional certificate?

House Bill 7069 includes specific in-service requirements for renewal of a professional certificate. Beginning with a **validity date** of July 1, 2020 (meaning those renewing 2025), or thereafter, educators who hold certification in an area that includes reading instruction or intervention for any students in kindergarten through grade 6, will be required to earn a minimum of two college credits or the equivalent of a 40 in-service points in the use of explicit, systematic and sequential

approaches to reading instruction, developing phonemic awareness, and implementing multisensory intervention strategies. FDLRS is offering opportunities that fulfill part of this requirement. BEESS offers a Reading Difficulties, Disabilities, and Dyslexia-Revised course that counts toward the requirement. <https://fl-pda.org/independent/descriptions.aspx> Other courses will be posted on the home page of the Professional Learning and Development website as they are introduced. **This course will also satisfy the 20 hour SWD requirement.**

What are the coverage areas that will require the 40 hour credit in reading for renewal?

Elementary Education (K-6), Prekindergarten/Primary Education (age 3 through grade 3), Elementary Education (grades 1-6), Primary Education (grades K-3), English (grades 1-6), Middle Grades English (grades 5-9), Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum (grades 5-9), English (6-12), Reading (K-12), Reading (Endorsement), and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) (grades K-12).

Who do I contact for specific reading questions and assistance?

- For scheduling questions, in-service record questions, review of transcripts for the addition of courses, and general Reading Endorsement Program requirements, email Lynnette Thorstensen, Professional Learning and Development Thorstensen.lynnette@brevardschools.org .
- To locate a Reading Endorsement Course, log into ProGOE² and search under “*Course by Subject.*”
- Email Dinah Kramer Kramer.dinah@brevardschools.org (secondary) or Sharon Doucett-Doran Doucett-Doran.sharon@brevardschools.org (elementary) for questions regarding the application to add the Reading Endorsement or Reading Certification to your teaching certificate.