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March 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Educator Preparation Institute Contacts

FROM: Barbara Elzie, Deputy Director
Just Read, Florida!

SUBJECT: Content Area Reading Professional Development (CAR-PD) Competency 2 Flexibility

It was a pleasure seeing many of you recently at the February 21st meeting in Tallahassee. As promised, I convened a group of policy makers to discuss the issue that many of you raised, which was the wish for your state approved competency 2 offered through your Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) to serve as the prerequisite course for the Content Area Reading Professional Development (CAR-PD) 60 hour face-to-face academy in addition to Florida Online Reading Professional Development (FOR-PD) or the Florida Reading Initiative (FRI). I am pleased to report that the Department, in the interest of providing as much flexibility as possible while maintaining the integrity of content area teacher professional development, has agreed to allow any state approved competency 2 to serve as the prerequisite for the CAR-PD 60 hour face-to-face academy.

As you may know, CAR-PD is a 150 hour professional development package consisting of FOR-PD or FRI (and now any state approved competency 2 within the Reading Endorsement); a 60 hour face-to-face academy and a 30 hour practicum. The purpose of CAR-PD is to allow a content area teacher who has completed the 150 hour CAR-PD training to provide reading intervention to students who scored at level 2 on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment test (FCAT), but who are fluent and do not have instructional needs in the area of decoding.

EVAN B. LEFSKY, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUST READ, FLORIDA!

We will also be sharing the information with school districts immediately so that they are aware of this newest flexibility. We also want them to be assured that they may accept your state approved competency 2 and count that not only towards the Reading Endorsement, but also as the prerequisite course for the CAR-PD 60 hour face-to-face academy offered within their district.

Another question that a few of you asked was whether you could develop a course that would have the same content as the CAR-PD 60 hour face-to-face academy in order that your students would only have to take the 30 hour practicum with their school district. At this point, we think it advisable to keep the CAR-PD 60 hour face-to-face academy within the district's purview – there is a very strong process in place and we, as the office in the Department that oversees the quality of CAR-PD, feel more comfortable with one option rather than multiple pathways to deliver the content of the CAR-PD 60 hour face-to-face academy. Additionally, since some of the clients you serve are not experienced teachers, it is probably wiser for more experienced educators to provide reading intervention for our neediest students.

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to the highest quality professional development for Florida's teachers. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

BE