

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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June 22, 2006

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Reading Endorsement Contacts  
District Staff Development Contacts

**FROM:** Kathryn S. Hebda

**SUBJECT: READING COMPETENCY TWO (2) AVAILABLE THROUGH  
EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTES**

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Section 1004.85 of the Florida Statutes authorizes accredited and approved postsecondary institutions to develop Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI) to provide some or all of the following services:

1. Professional development opportunities to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification and/or recertification requirements
2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties
3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training requirements
4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers through competency-based, alternative certification programs

Students who complete the competency-based, alternative teacher certification program at an approved EPI will receive instruction in scientifically-based reading principles that meet the requirements for Competency 2 of the Reading Endorsement. Regardless of the reading curriculum in use at a specific EPI (FOR-PD, LETRS, or other institutionally-developed modules), the Just Read, Florida! Office has verified that each approved, competency-based, alternative certification program has a Reading Module that meets the requirements for Competency 2.

Postsecondary institutions may also offer the Reading Module from their competency-based, alternative certification program as a stand-alone professional development opportunity. Only EPIs that are approved to provide professional development may deliver the Reading Module in this way. A list of approved Educator Preparation Institutes and the services that they are approved to offer is available via the Internet at:

<http://www.teachinflorida.com/PreCollegiate/EPI.asp>

Remember that colleges and universities offer a wide range of educational opportunities in credit and noncredit formats that may also be focused on professional development for teachers. The contents of this memo apply to offerings through the Educator Preparation Institutes only.

Please note that postsecondary institutions typically charge tuition and fees, so there may be a cost associated with taking the Competency 2 Module. To take advantage of these opportunities, districts need to amend their district add-on reading endorsement plan to include the postsecondary institution option for Competency 2. This can be accomplished by e-mailing Barbara Elzie at [Barbara.Elzie@fldoe.org](mailto:Barbara.Elzie@fldoe.org).

Since you are the Staff Development/Reading Endorsement Contact in your district, I wanted you to be aware of the potential for collaboration with postsecondary institutions in your area. It should also be noted that since FOR-PD is an option that has been available for many years to teachers in school districts, and since you are well-versed in that registration process, you may choose to continue to access FOR-PD through your district sections or open enrollments.

If you need to verify that a current teacher has satisfactorily completed an EPI competency-based alternative teacher certification program, or a Competency 2 Module, you may contact the EPI Coordinator at your teacher's institution of attendance. A list with contact information for all EPI Coordinators may be found at: <http://www.teachinflorida.com/PreCollegiate/EPI.asp>

Additional information about community college Educator Preparation Institutes may be obtained through Ian Neuhard at [Ian.Neuhard@fldoe.org](mailto:Ian.Neuhard@fldoe.org). Questions about state university EPIs should be directed to Sundra Kincey at [Sundra.Kincey@fldoe.org](mailto:Sundra.Kincey@fldoe.org). Finally, for questions about the Reading Endorsements or Competency 2, please contact Barbara Elzie at [Barbara.Elzie@fldoe.org](mailto:Barbara.Elzie@fldoe.org).

C: Barbara Elzie  
Ian Neuhard  
Sundra Kincey  
EPI Coordinators