

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF WORKFORCE EDUCATION--APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeship Section Procedures

SUBJECT

Related technical instruction [RTI] delivery methods

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship program sponsors regarding provision of RTI in other than traditional classroom settings.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship program sponsors as defined in Chapter 38H-16 FAC and Chapter 446 FS operating registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs as defined in Chapter 38H-16 FAC and Chapter 446 FS.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon issuance

Expiration Date

Until superseded or rescinded

POLICY

Title 29 CFR Part 29.5[b][4] sets the federal criteria for standards of apprenticeship related instruction. It requires the following:

...Provision for organized, related and supplemental instruction in technical subjects related to the trade. A minimum of 144 hours for each year of apprenticeship is recommended. Such instruction may be given in a classroom through trade, industrial courses or by through trade, industrial or correspondence courses of equivalent value, **or other forms of self-study approved by the registration/approval agency...** *[emphasis added]*

Florida's rule in regard to this subject, based on the federal rules, says the following at 38H-16.004[2][d] FAC:

Provision for organized related and supplemental instruction in technical subjects related to the trade. A minimum of 144 hours for each year of apprenticeship is required. Such

instruction may be given in a classroom, through trade, industrial, or approved correspondence courses of equivalent value approved by the Bureau...

Florida Code is silent, and thus more restrictive than federal Code, regarding "other" delivery methods. There is no provision in Florida at present for "...other forms of self-study..." beyond correspondence courses. The Code is similarly silent in regard to preapprenticeship RTI at 38H-16.010[4][c]4. The Legislature has allowed some room for innovation at 446.071[3] FS which states, "The department may grant a variance from the standards upon a showing of good cause for the variance by program sponsors in nonconstruction trades." Traditional programs are provided no such latitude by the statute.

However, media for delivery of RTI has changed over the years with the advent of the internet. Consequently, traditional definitions of correspondence-based learning systems must be interpreted in light of current technology. The traditional definition of a correspondence school is a school that teaches non-resident students by mailing them lessons and exercises which, upon completion, are returned to the school for grading. Likewise, a correspondence course is defined as a course of study taken at home with lessons sent by mail. These definitions, in using the term mail, were created in a period in which mail was only considered to be that which was moved from place to place via the United States Postal Service. Today, when saying that something is to be mailed, we generally specify email or snail mail. The definition of mail has changed.

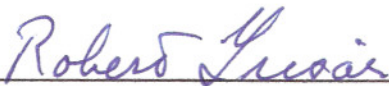
In view of the above, electronically delivered correspondence courses shall be deemed as meeting the Code requirement for "...approved correspondence courses of equivalent value..." provided that the sponsor takes the following actions:

- Submit the appropriate amendment to their program's standards [or new standards] via normal channels, with a copy of the proposed page or pages of the standards showing the proposed RTI wording;
- Submit evidence from a relevant recognized accrediting authority that the RTI delivered in the proposed manner is equivalent to the traditional classroom training; and,
- Submit a detailed procedure/policy showing how this instructional delivery method will be administered and monitored and that it will not adversely impact any group protected under Title 29 CFR Part 30.

If, after review, the proposed RTI delivery method is approved, the program sponsor may then implement it.

AUTHORITY

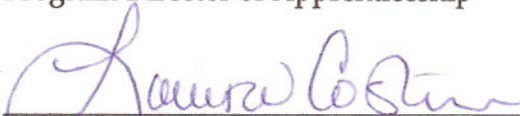
Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education—Apprenticeship; Title 29 CFR Part 29; Chapter 446 FS; Chapter 38H-16 FAC.



Robert Grisar
Program Director of Apprenticeship

11-17-08

Date Signed



Loretta Costin
Vice Chancellor

11/18/08

Date Signed