

New Requirements for Reading Endorsements – Q & A

Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, the following teachers will be required to either hold the Reading Endorsement, Reading K-12 certification or to begin the course requirements to add Reading Endorsement to their certificate.

- A 3rd Grade teacher that has a student that has been retained in 3rd grade.
 - Any teacher that is listed as the teacher of record for a Tier 3 reading intervention.
 - Any teacher that would like to be considered to teach 3rd grade Summer School
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1. Are all students who are retained in third grade, under the provisions of Section 1008.25(5)(b) Florida Statutes (F.S.), required to receive intensive reading interventions?

Yes. Section 1008.25(7)(a), F.S., requires students retained in third grade to be provided intensive interventions in reading to improve the student's specific reading deficiency.

2. I would like to teach summer school for 3rd grade students for this year (June 2020), do I need to hold a Reading Endorsement?

No. Per statute section 1008.25(7)(a), F.S, teachers of summer school starting in June of 2020 will not be required to have a certification in reading or hold a Reading Endorsement. However, to teach summer school for 3rd grade students starting year 2020-2021 and after a teacher must hold a Reading Endorsement or have certification in reading. There are provisions in place to put the teacher out-of-field for reading and the teacher will need to complete the required compliance to continue in an out-of-field assignment.

3. Does every teacher (math, social studies, P.E., music, etc.) of a retained third grade student need to be certified or endorsed in reading?

No. Section 1011.62(9), F.S., requires that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, intensive reading interventions (Tier 3) must be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading. Thus, only the teacher who is delivering the intensive reading interventions and/or reading instruction to a retained student will need to be certified or endorsed in reading.

4. May paraprofessionals, long-term substitutes, or volunteers provide the required intensive reading interventions?

No. Section 1011.62(9), F.S., states the intensive reading interventions are to be delivered by a teacher who is certified or endorsed in reading.

5. How does SLPS identify students to receive intensive reading interventions?

SLPS has created a Reading Decision Tree chart within the K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading Plan for courses required for students requiring intensive interventions at the Tier 3 level. In addition, students identified in Skyward as needing Tier 3 interventions will be assigned to a teacher to provide that intense intervention.

6. Are all teachers required to deliver intensive reading interventions?

No. Schools decide which teachers are selected to deliver the intensive reading interventions including the course and when during the instructional day.

7. How will the FLDOE monitor the implementation of these requirements?

Each school must properly report the course in which each qualifying student is receiving either targeted or intensive reading interventions required by the SLPS K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading Plan using the Automated Student Information System Data Element #168521, Reading Intervention.

8. May teachers who are not certified or endorsed in reading provide the intensive reading interventions and be considered out-of-field while working toward earning the reading endorsement?

Yes. In accordance with Rule 6A-1.0503, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.c.), Definition of Qualified Instructional Personnel, teachers who are not certified or endorsed in reading may be considered out--of-field and continue to provide intensive reading interventions as they work toward earning the certification or endorsement in reading.

9. How many Reading Endorsement Competencies must an "out-of-field" teacher complete each year in order to continue to provide intensive reading interventions?

A teacher who completes at least **two (2)** of the five reading endorsement competencies per year may continue to provide intensive reading interventions.

Note: The FLDOE does not require teachers to complete all five competencies of the 300-hour Reading Endorsement in one year.

10. I was out-of-field in a previous assignment, can I teach out-of-field again?

No. Only teachers that have completed the required compliance for an out-of-field assignment would be permitted to teach out of field again. If you want to know your eligibility for an out-of-field assignment, please contact Lauren Fowler in Human Resources at 429-7507.

11. How can SLPS assist teachers in earning the reading endorsement?

There are many free options to take courses online to meet the Reading Endorsements.

- Reading Endorsement Courses offered through Talent Development on Canvas (FREE Courses) <https://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/td/learning-opportunities/>
- Reading Endorsement Courses (only Competency #4 and #5) offered through FDLRS (FREE Courses) <http://www.fdlrs.org/>

Many companies offer courses for a fee. Please note that teachers will not be reimbursed for the cost of the course.

- Beacon Learning Center <http://www.beaconlearningcenter.com/>
- Shultz Center <https://schultzcenter.org/>

12. Can I take the Reading K-12 subject area exam to meet the requirement for Reading Endorsement?

Yes. Due to recent changes by the state board rule, a teacher can take and pass the Reading K-12 subject area exam to meet the requirement for Reading Endorsement.

The test costs \$150. Please note that teachers will not be reimbursed for the cost of the assessment. If a teacher is not successful in passing the test, they would have to re-take the whole test and pay an additional fee.

*** Reading K-12 subject area exam was originally intended for educators that hold a master's degree in Reading. ***

Link to additional information. <http://fl.nesinc.com/testPage.asp?test=035>

13. I think I completed Reading Courses in my under-graduate degree, can I use those courses to meet the requirement for the Reading Endorsement?

Yes. There are many universities and colleges that issue a degree in Elementary Education and Exceptional Student Education that are now incorporating Reading Endorsement classes into course work. A certificate issued by an internationally recognized organization that establishes standards for providing evidence-based interventions to struggling readers, or who completes a postsecondary program that is accredited by such organization can also be issued a Reading Endorsement. You can ask the FLDOE to review your transcript to see if classes on your transcript can be used toward Reading Endorsement. School districts cannot review transcripts.

1. Register as a new applicant (if you have not done so already):
<https://flcertify.fldoe.org/datamart/login.do;jsessionid=U1JxEuum2Wc043xq6nScJr6Z70UOMbBGXQ6nb-q8.bec-pveronl02>
2. Apply for the addition to the Professional certificate. Please be certain that you use the "add endorsement Bureau of Educator Certification" application.
3. Make the \$75 addition fee payment directly through that application process.

When the payment has been made and the application submitted to the FLDOE for the addition, the FLDOE will issue a Statement of Eligibility. This statement will outline if any courses on your transcript can be used as part of the Reading Endorsement. This Statement of Eligibility will last for three (3) years. In that time, if you complete the required courses for Reading Endorsement, you DO NOT have to pay additional \$75 to add Reading Endorsement to your certificate.