



Special Education Certificate Endorsements

In an effort to increase the number of highly effective teachers and improve student rates of learning, the Florida Department of Education is requiring that selected teachers of students with autism, severe or profound disabilities, and pre-kindergarten children with disabilities have specialized training. These teachers will be required to obtain an endorsement corresponding with the population they teach.

Florida Department of Education Endorsement in Autism

Beginning July 1, 2011, instructors who are hired to teach or who are currently the primary instructor for students in kindergarten through 12th grade with more than 50% of their students who are identified as autistic need to be certified in an exceptional student education area and have an endorsement in severe or profound disabilities.

Florida Department of Education Endorsement in Severe or Profound Disabilities

Beginning July 1, 2011, instructors who are hired to teach or who are currently the primary instructor for students who are identified as either profoundly mentally handicapped (PMH) or with a dual sensory impairment (DSI) or teach courses in the Florida Course Code Directory listed under the "Participatory Levels: 9-12" need to be certified in an exceptional student education area and have an endorsement in severe or profound disabilities.

Florida Department of Education Endorsement in Pre-kindergarten Disabilities

Training in early childhood development, developmentally appropriate practices, and specialized instructional interventions and strategies is of critical importance for teachers of young children with disabilities. Therefore, beginning July 1, 2011, the following changes will be made in the certification requirements.

Pre-kindergarten Disabilities: Age 3-5 (Course Number 7650030)

Teachers certified in any exceptional education field, primary education, and early childhood education will be required to obtain the specialization requirement for the pre-kindergarten disabilities endorsement as described in Rule 6A-4.01792, FAC. This requirement **will not apply** to teachers certified in preschool education (birth through age 4) and/or pre-k/primary education (age three through grade three).

Should you have any questions regarding the endorsement in autism or the endorsement in severe or profound disabilities, please contact Ms. Sheryl Sandvoss, Program Specialist, Florida Department of Education, by telephone at (850) 245-0478 or by electronic mail at sheryl.sandvoss@fldoe.org. Should you have any questions regarding the endorsement in pre-kindergarten disabilities, please contact Ms. Cathy Bishop, Program Specialist, Florida Department of Education, by telephone at (850)245-0478 or by electronic mail at cathy.bishop@fldoe.org.



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Action Research

Are you interested in learning more about Action Research? If so, here are a few websites that you might find helpful.

- The Florida Department of Education has just announced the availability of a new document entitled *Leading Action Research in Schools*. <http://www.myfloridaeducation.com/commhome/pdf/action-res.pdf>
This guide was written by administrators for other administrators in Florida who are facilitating the participation of action research by teachers in their schools in conjunction with their individual professional development plans and follow-up and evaluation to effective professional development aligned to the Florida Professional Development Protocol. In the Resources section of this guide, there are six additional action research websites, including the following:
- *Teacher Research: George Mason University* <http://www.gse.gmu.edu/research/tr/index.shtml>
This website by George Mason University's Graduate School of Education is an extensive site covering the basics of action research, the steps in the process, and discussion of data analysis and conclusions. It also offers a growing online archive of finished action research projects.
- *Research as a Framework for School Improvement*, South Florida Center for Educators, Florida Atlantic University <http://www.coe.fau.edu/sfcel/default.htm>
Florida Atlantic University's website for action research as a framework for school improvement offers information about action research in general, as well as projects that are specific to their region.
- *An Introductory Guide to Teacher Candidates at Queen's University: Action Research Who? Why? How? So What?* http://educ.queensu.ca/projects/action_research/guide.htm This website offers a quick introductory look at the basics of action research. It helps answer frequently asked questions and addresses concerns about the basic structure of doing action research. By answering the fundamental questions of who, what, why, where, and how, it gives a good overview for beginning researchers of what action research is and how to do it.



Upcoming Conferences

Behavior Strategies, Medications and Public Safety for Autism Spectrum Disorder
01/09/06 - 01/10/06 Orlando, FL
<http://www.spectrumtrainingsystemsinc.com/conferences.html>

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) State Conference
01/20/06 – 01/21/06
<http://www.ucf-card.org>

13th Annual CARD Conference
01/21/06 - 01/22/06 Tampa, FL
<http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu>

The Transition Center - Transition: IDEA Way Conference
02/15/06 Destin, FL
<http://thetransitioncenter.org>

Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)
43rd Annual International Conference
02/26/06 – 03/01/06 Jacksonville, FL
<http://www.ldanatl.org/conference/index.asp>

Florida Educational Technology Conference
03/22/06 – 03/24/06 Orlando, FL
<http://www.fetc.org>

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Annual Convention & Expo
04/05/06 – 04/09/06 Salt Lake City, UT
<http://www.cec.sped.org>



VSA arts Call for Flash Fiction and Poetry

The VSA arts writing project encourages educators to explore creative writing in their classrooms and learning environments to include students of all abilities. The call for student flash fiction and poetry is an opportunity to draw out the expressive minds of students through the written word, while also addressing education standards in reading and writing. Educators new to creative writing can use this call as a catalyst for expanding teaching techniques.

VSA arts is currently accepting flash fiction and poetry for an online literary journal and writing gallery on the theme "Another Point of View." The students should write a story or poem from the point of view of someone or something they may not have considered before. They can choose to write from the perspective of a human being, an animal, an element of nature or even an inanimate object. Stories and poems will be judged for their creativity, depth of exploration, and presence of personal style or vision.

The call is open to students with disabilities and students who have connections to people with disabilities. Students must be between the ages of 11 to 18 years. Poems should not exceed 100 lines and flash fiction should not exceed 400 words. Writing must be original and created by the student submitting the entry. Submissions must be accompanied by an entry form signed by the writer and parent or guardian for students under age 18 years. Entry forms can be downloaded from the VSA arts website at <http://www.vsarts.org/x889.xml>. Each participant should write the title of the work, name, address, and telephone number in pencil on the back of the submission. It is suggested that students make a copy of their submission prior to sending them to VSA arts. Entries must reach VSA arts on or before **Friday, December 16, 2005**. Entries should be sent to: VSA arts – Writing Project, 818 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20006.



This Therapy Dog Is All Wet!

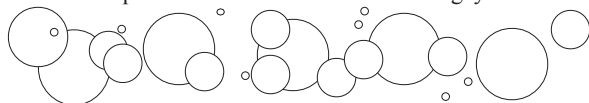
Students in Ree Schroeder’s Pre-K Multi VE class at Deltona Lakes Elementary are now working with a New Horizons therapy dog during scheduled occupational therapy sessions. Tangey, short for Tangerine, is a 2 year old Golden Retriever with a sweet disposition and spunky personality. Her proud owner, Kim Christian, occupational therapist assistant, brings her to work with students in occupational therapy two days per week. Tangey is also used in the general education classrooms for public relations. Recently, students in Mrs. Schroeder’s and Mrs. Biggs’ ESE PreK classes bathed Tangey. All of the students had a chance to experience this multi sensory activity. A story board talking device was used for sequencing the activity. Tangey stayed put while each student got their turn squirting her with water and scrubbing her with doggie shampoo. Each student then had another chance to rinse her off and use the towel to dry her off. It was a fun activity for the students and one that we will be sure to repeat each month that the weather allows.



A story board talking device is used to help students understand the sequence of the bathing.



Lots of suds and water make this a real hands-on experience for the students...and Tangey!



Virtual ESE Distance Learning Program

The Virtual ESE Distance Learning Program is a collaborative effort among universities in Florida to provide graduate courses in special education through an online delivery system. Faculty from across the state of Florida offer graduate courses through the internet.

Teachers wishing to pursue graduate courses in ESE through the virtual program will have the opportunity to interact not only with a broad array of university faculty, but also with classroom teachers from around the state. This unique opportunity is coupled with the convenience of remaining close to home and to the school site.

The Virtual ESE Distance Learning Program provides access to graduate education for teachers with busy schedules.

Benefits of the Program

- ◆ Interaction between special education faculty, special education classroom teachers, and general education classroom teachers
- ◆ Opportunity to pursue courses toward a master’s degree while remaining close to home
- ◆ Critical Teacher Shortage Area tuition reimbursement with successful completion of courses (contingent upon availability from the Florida Department of Education)
- ◆ Program tailored to meet the needs of the busy professional

How do I apply to the program?

All admissions are handled through local universities. **Please contact the FDLRS office for a listing of these universities. Volusia (386) 258-4684; Brevard (321) 633-1000 x540**

How are courses delivered?

Through the innovative use of technology, courses are delivered through the Internet. Students must have access to email and a recent Internet browser. The online courses are based on a traditional semester calendar and are not independent study. Participants are required to make weekly postings and to interact with others online through a course website. Students with varying degrees of computer proficiency (from novice to expert) have all been successful in mastering the minimal technical requirements of taking an online course.

What courses are available?

Through the innovative use of technology, numerous graduate courses in Exceptional Student Education are available online. Four graduate courses are available each semester that are required for certification in ESE.





Online Recruitment Service for ESE

In a continuing effort to recruit qualified education personnel for all Florida public school districts, the Department of Education has announced the availability of the web-based recruitment service **Teachers-Teachers.com**. This service is designed to help school district recruiters meet the challenges of placing the most qualified exceptional student education (ESE) professionals in our schools.

A membership to Teachers-Teachers.com service will be provided by the Florida Department of Education's Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services (BEES) free of charge for all Florida school districts. Membership to the service will enable those charged with personnel recruitment to post job openings for special education and related services personnel, send broadcast e-mails to targeted pools of candidates, and conduct customized candidate searches. *To learn more about services, please visit <http://www.teachers-teachers.com/florida>.*



Reading Matrix Website National Center for Technology Innovation

<http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/matrix/default.asp>

This website is intended to serve as a resource that matches technology tools with supporting literature on promising practices for the instruction of K-8 reading for students with disabilities. Search the following website categories for valuable information on reading instruction!

- Building Skills and Comprehension
 - Convert Text to Speech
- Providing Text in Alternative Formats
 - Providing Electronic Resources
 - Organizing Ideas
 - Integrating Literacy Supports



Educational Services Facility
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940-6699




Palm Terrace Elementary
1825 Dunn Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114



Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum Online Content Review Module

The Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum Online Content Review Module, sponsored by the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, is designed to help educators review their knowledge in the areas of English, math, science, and social science as required in the Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5-9 certification exam.

Target Audience:

-  ESE certified educators teaching basic education courses to students with disabilities in grades 5-9, who need to obtain Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum Certification to comply with requirements of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB).
-  Middle Grades certified general educators teaching basic education courses in grades 5-9, who need to obtain Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum Certification, to comply with requirements of NCLB.
-  Middle Grades administrators seeking a resource to share when discussing content competencies required by new teachers teaching core content to all students in grades 5-9.

Module Features:

- Self-paced online content review
- Maintains demographic information
- Provides access to content for six-weeks
- Free of charge to Florida Educators
 - Comprehensive
 - User-friendly

While the content covered in this review module is extensive, it does not replace the need for an appropriate program of study for each subject. Completion of this online module does not guarantee a passing score on the certification exam. Instructional support and inservice credit are not available with this module. Participants are required to register through the FDLRS HRD Coordinating Unit at: <http://FDLRSHRD.NEFEC.org/IC/>



The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, IDEA Part B, Preschool, and State General Revenue Funds.

*This publication can be made available to persons with disabilities in a variety of formats, including large print, cassette tape, and braille. Telephone or written requests should be made at least two weeks prior to the time you need the material and should include your name, address and phone number. In **Brevard County** requests should be made to Kim Riddle, ESE Lead Teacher, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940-6699, (321) 633-1000, ext. 535 and in **Volusia County** to Linda Stackpole, FDLRS, 1825 Dunn Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, (386) 258-4684.

* You can access the *Coastline* newsletter by visiting the FDLRS/East website at <http://fdlrs.brevard.k12.fl.us/east/> OR http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/ease/FDLRS_East