



## **Reading Endorsement Frequently Asked Questions**

Florida's Department of Education requires that certain teachers be reading endorsed or certified in order to teach reading.

- Teachers who teach any grade 7-12 state-coded reading course must be reading endorsed or certified.
- There are two state statutes that require additional teachers to be Reading Endorsed or Certified.
  - **1011.62(9)(c) 7.(d)1 F.S)**
    - Requires any K-12 teacher, including ESE and ESOL, who is providing intensive reading intervention (i.e., MTSS Tier 3 students as defined by the district's K-12 Comprehensive Reading Plan) be reading endorsed or certified. This statute takes effect at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.
  - **1008.25(7)(b)3 F.S)**
    - Requires that any teacher, including ESE and ESOL, who is teaching reading to retained third graders, including summer camp students, must be reading endorsed or certified. This state statute takes effect on July 1, 2020.
    - **What if I am not Reading Endorsed or Certified by July 1, 2020? What is required of me?**

Teachers who are not certified or endorsed in reading will have until June 30, 2021 to earn the endorsement or certification.

### **How will I be notified that I am Out of Field?**

Human Resources will notify the teacher of their out of field status at the beginning of their out of field assignment.

### **Can I be Out of Field in more than one subject area at the same time?**

Teachers may be out of field in more than one subject at the same time. They must clear both out of field assignments **within** the school year.

### **Can I be out of field more than one time in my career?**

Teachers are permitted to be out of field more than one time in their career if they properly clear their out of field status each time.

## How does Alachua County identify students to receive intensive reading interventions?

Each district in Florida has created Identification/Intervention Decision Tree charts within the K-12 Comprehensive Research-Based Reading Plan. According to s. 1011.62(9), F.S., these plans “shall be developed with input from school district personnel, including teachers and principals,” and delineate how each district makes a local determination of which students will receive reading interventions.

[Alachua County Public Schools Reading Decision Tree- Elementary](#)

[Alachua County Public Schools Reading Decision Tree- Secondary](#)

## Who do I contact if I have questions as to whether or not this impacts me?

These new requirements will impact many teachers in our district. If you are not sure whether this applies to your teaching assignment, please reach out to your school principal for guidance.

## Can 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.

## What is required to earn the Reading Endorsement?

In our traditional pathway, there are [five courses](#) required for the Reading Endorsement.

### **READING ENDORSEMENT COMPETENCIES (300 HOURS)**

Competency 1: Foundations of Reading Instruction (60 hours)

Competency 2: Application of Research-Based Instructional Practices/Content Area Rdng.(60 hours)

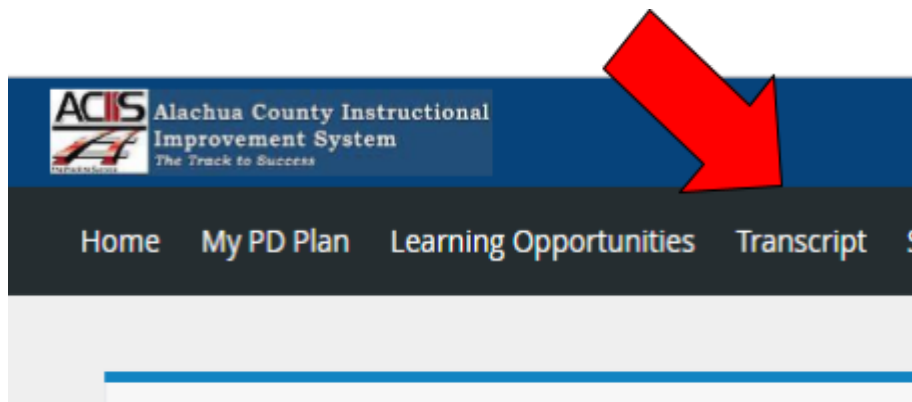
Competency 3: Foundations of Assessment (60 hours)

Competency 4: Differentiated Instruction (60 hours)

Competency 5: Practicum (60 hours)

**[Prior to asking for a transcript review, check your ACIIS transcript for any RE courses added.](#)**

1. Log into your ACIIS account and click on Transcript



2. Scroll down and click ESOL/Reading

#	Survey	Course #	Section #	Title	Start Date	End Date
1.	Survey completed August 3, 2019	22652	26274	2019 Summer Conference- Teachers and Mentors	06/19/2019	06/20/2019

### Wondering if you have some college coursework that you could apply to the endorsement?

1. Check [here](#) to see what is currently showing on your certificate. Click on the Public Search Link if you don't want to create an account. If you have Reading Endorsement or Reading K-12 Certification (or Reading appears under Subject Areas) for the current validity period/most recent certificate, you are good to go. If not, go to step 2.

2. Check [here](#) to see if the institution where you earned your degree is on the teacher preparation approved list, click on the pdf and see if your degree included reading, and if you graduated with that degree program/endorsement between the approval dates. (It should say /Reading). You may have all or part of the endorsement with your degree.

In addition...

#### **Elementary:**

Any teacher who completed a Florida state-approved teacher preparation program in ESE, Pre-K Primary, or Elementary Education between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2010 **should** have two to four of the six competencies (RE formerly had six components).

Any teacher who completed a Florida state-approved teacher preparation program in ESE, Pre-K Primary, or Elementary Education between July 1, 2010 or after should have four of the five competencies.

### **Secondary:**

Any teacher who completed a Florida state-approved teacher preparation program in any middle grades, secondary, or K-12 special area, after July 1, 2010, the district can assume that competencies one and two have been completed.

*\*Teachers who complete an alternative certification program (EPI or PDCP) will have met the requirement for Reading Competency 1-4 (Prek K, Elem, & ESE) or Competency 1-2 (Secondary)*

3. There are two options for transcript review:

- A. You can apply for reading as a subject to be added to your certificate through the FLDOE. To do this, [apply](#) for the "Addition to Professional Certificate." The fee is \$75 and will also count as the fee for your Reading Endorsement add on if all coursework is completed within three years. Once you receive your Statement of Status of Eligibility letter, contact the Professional Development Department for Reading Endorsement coursework options.
- B. If your transcripts are already on file with the Human Resources Department, email Michael Jacobi [@jacobimh@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:@jacobimh@gm.sbac.edu) to request they be sent to the Professional Development Office for review. Upon review, you will receive notification regarding which courses you have credit for as well as which ones you still need to take. If you believe some coursework should count that you were not informed would qualify, we suggest you go ahead and [apply](#) via the FLDOE as stated in section A above. The review process can take 2-4 weeks.

### **How do I add the Reading Endorsement to my teaching certificate?**

Once you complete the requirements, contact Michael Jacobi in Certification via email at [jacobimh@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:jacobimh@gm.sbac.edu) or via phone at (352) 955-7721. He will provide directions on how to apply and pay \$75 to add this coverage. If you are a current military/veteran (or spouse), visit the [Military Fee Waiver Page](#) to apply for a fee waiver.

### **What is the difference between the reading endorsement and the reading certification?**

The reading endorsement is a "rider" to other certifications. A reading endorsement is made up of 15 university course credit hours (or 300 in-service points) while the reading certification consists of 30 university course credit hours or a Master's Degree in Reading.

### **Does a teacher with a master's degree in reading need to earn the Reading Endorsement?**

No, a teacher does not need both. A teacher either needs to be reading endorsed or reading certified. A master's degree in reading meets all of the state's requirements to teach reading. In order to be in compliance with state mandates, Reading Endorsement or Reading Certification must be added to the

teacher's Florida teaching certificate. Teachers with 30 hours or Master's Degree in Reading must take the reading certification exam to earn the K-12 reading certification.

### **Is there an alternative option to completing the five 60 credit hour components? Yes! The Reading K-12 Subject Area Exam.**

In lieu of completing a Reading Endorsement Program, Teachers who receive a passing score on the Reading K-12 Subject Area Exam (or have passed it within the last 10 years) can apply to add the Reading Endorsement to their certificate without completing the previously required coursework. For additional information or how to register for this exam, click [here](#). A passing score on the Reading K-12 subject area exam is the ONLY test that may be used to satisfy the Reading Endorsement requirement (the reading subtest of the Elementary Ed., PK Primary, or General Knowledge will not work). **This option will no longer be available after July 1, 2024.**

For a limited time, teachers who take the K-12 Reading Subject Area exam and receive a passing score will be reimbursed for the registration cost. Teachers will need to submit unofficial/official results and receipt to Human Resources- attention Teresa Boston: [bostondt@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:bostondt@gm.sbac.edu)

For Reading K-12 course materials please click [HERE](#).

### **Will the District provide for me to get my Reading Endorsement?**

Alachua County Public Schools provides course offerings to obtain the Reading Endorsement free of charge to ACPS teachers. Courses are offered in the fall, spring, and summer- see below for a link to our current course offerings or access the [Professional Development website](#) where the current PD calendar is located and includes the Reading Endorsement Course offerings each semester.

The District has also enrolled individuals into the UF Literacy Matrix as a means to earn Reading Endorsement.

#### **Reading Endorsement Course Offerings**

### **Are there courses available for me to self-enroll and pay for out of pocket?**

You may choose to start coursework and pay on your own to get started. ACPS will accept coursework from any of the organizations/companies listed below:

[NEFEC](#)

[Literacy Solutions individual courses](#)

[Schultz Institute](#)

[Beacon Educator](#)

[Professional Development Alternatives \(PDA\) "Differentiating Reading Instruction for Students: \(Making It Explicit" in place of Reading Endorsement Competency 4\)](#)

\*Upon completion of coursework, submit the certificate of completion to the Professional Development Department via email at [bunnjw@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:bunnjw@gm.sbac.edu) or

### **Are Reading in-service points bankable?**

If reading credit is earned under a five-year Professional renewable certificate, the Florida Department of Education allows the “banking” of reading credits. Each course is worth 60 in-service points.

### **How much time will it take to complete one competency?**

Each competency is valued at 60 in-service points, which means that participation both face to face and online, independent study, and application in your own classroom will take 60 hours.

### **Can I enroll in more than one course at a time?**

We do not recommend that teachers take more than two courses per semester.

### **Who do I contact for specific reading questions?**

For questions regarding Certification, please contact Michael Jacobi ([jacobimh@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:jacobimh@gm.sbac.edu)) in the Human Resources Department. For questions regarding coursework and enrollment questions, please contact Raysa Emma ([Emmar@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:Emmar@gm.sbac.edu)) in the Professional Development Department. For questions regarding our K-12 Reading Plan, please contact Kevin Berry ([berrykj@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:berrykj@gm.sbac.edu)) in the Curriculum Department.