

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**K12: 2008-169**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendents

**FROM:** Dr. Frances Haithcock

**DATE:** October 9, 2008

**SUBJECT: Clarification on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Coverage**

There may be some confusion surrounding the requirements for teachers of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and all teachers with English Language Learners (ELL) in their classrooms. I hope this communication will clarify these issues.

Currently, reading teachers and language arts teachers are required to obtain full English for Speakers of Other Languages certification or endorsement to teach reading to an English Language Learner student. If they fail to do so, they are *out-of-field*. This certification or endorsement may be obtained via 300 hours of ESOL inservice training, ESOL college coursework, or passing of the subject area exam and 120 hours of ESOL inservice training.

Teachers who teach ESOL to students identified as ELLs, and who are complying with the requirements of rules and statutes and court orders but do not have coverage yet, are *in compliance* but *out-of-field*. Similarly, individuals teaching reading to ELLs, who are in the process of obtaining coverage, and who are complying with the requirements of rules and statutes and court orders but do not have coverage yet, are *in compliance* but *out-of-field*.

The 60 hours of inservice required as part of the League of United Latin American Citizens' consent decree for the core subject areas, math, science, social studies, and computer literacy is not a *certification* requirement. A teacher who fails to obtain the inservice requirements within the timelines set forth in the consent decree will be considered *out-of-compliance* but will not be considered *out-of-field*.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The 120 hours of inservice requirement for ESOL teachers who obtain subject area coverage solely through passing the subject area examination is an *inservice* requirement, not a *certification* requirement. Therefore, if a teacher has ESOL certification by passing the subject area exam but fails to obtain the additional 120 hours within the timelines set forth in the consent decree, they will be considered *out-of-compliance* but will not be considered *out-of-field*.

At this time we have established an advisory group of experts in ESOL which is working to determine if a stronger professional development solution can be developed. This proposal will go to a larger stakeholder group for discussion in the near future.

If you have questions, please contact Lori Rodriguez, Chief, Bureau of Academic Achievement through Language Acquisition, at [lori.rodriguez@fldoe.org](mailto:lori.rodriguez@fldoe.org), or Pam Stewart, Deputy Chancellor of Educator Quality, at [pam.stewart@fldoe.org](mailto:pam.stewart@fldoe.org).

FH/ps/lr