



**Professional Development Alternatives**  
**Teaching Students with Disabilities**  
**Questions and Answers**

The focus of the Teaching Students with Disabilities module is to provide educators with introductory information about the foundations of exceptional student education in Florida, the provision of services, and appropriate instructional practices for students with disabilities. This module is not intended to be a course of study to obtain teacher certification in Exceptional Student Education. Each district has professional development offerings to meet the new recertification requirement of SB 1108. FDLRS is providing this new independent study module as one option if properly coded in your local Master Inservice Plan.

**1. How do I access the Teaching Students with Disabilities independent study module?**

You may register for the module at [www.fl-pda.org](http://www.fl-pda.org). In the Independent Study section on the right side of the website, click the "Register/Sign In" button. Click "New User? Register Here!" Fill out all fields, then click, "Submit Your Registration". On the next screen, chose Teaching Students with Disabilities then click "Enroll". You will be directed to complete the demographic survey in order to enroll in the module.

**2. Who can complete the Teaching Students with Disabilities independent study module?**

This module is available to all educators in the state of Florida. However, if you are currently not employed as an educator, a retired educator, or are employed by a private school, see the important information in questions 10-12.

**3. What is the cost of participating in the Teaching Students with Disabilities independent study module?**

There is no cost to participate and complete the module.

**4. How many inservice points will I receive for completing Teaching Students with Disabilities independent study module?**

Upon completion of all module requirements, including online content and a mandatory follow up activity that must be verified by a work location administrator or supervisor, 20 inservice points will be awarded. These inservice credits will meet the new recertification requirements for teaching students with disabilities if appropriately coded and approved under Exceptional Student Education in your public or private school Master Inservice Plan (MIP).

**5. How is the module organized?**

The module has five content units, an overview, and a conclusion. Each unit includes objectives, content, activities, check your knowledge questions, additional reading, and supplemental resources. External links support the topics. It is self-directed and users may proceed at their own pace.

**6. What are the Teaching Students with Disabilities module requirements?**

Part 1

Complete module content, including readings and applications to check your understanding Check Your Knowledge Quizzes (with 80% accuracy) Final Assessment (with 80% accuracy).

Part 2

Completion of one follow-up activity-there are four options, verification of satisfactory completion of the follow-up by work location administrator or supervisor, participant verification of completion of follow-up activity and satisfaction survey.

**7. Will I be working with a facilitator?**

No. This is an independent study module. It is not facilitated. This module content will provide you with directions for completing the module. For technical troubleshooting contact: [support@fcim+pda.org](mailto:support@fcim+pda.org)

**8. How long do I have to complete the Teaching Students with Disabilities module?**

You have twelve weeks to complete both Part 1 and Part 2 requirements. If you do not complete Part 1 and Part 2 requirements in twelve weeks, you will have to reregister for the module at a later time. If you reregister, you will need to start the module from the beginning. Your work will not be saved.

**9. May I earn partial credit for the module?**

No. You must complete all of both Part 1 and Part 2 requirements to earn any inservice credits. No partial credit will be awarded.

**10. How can I verify the follow-up activity, if I am not currently working in the field of education?**

Completing one of the follow-up activity options and having it reviewed and verified for satisfactory completion by an administrator who is currently working in the field of education is a mandatory requirement of the course. If you not currently working in education, this can be a recent former principal, the principal at a school where you volunteer or substitute, or a district administrator who agrees to review your work and sign that it has been completed in a satisfactory manner. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have an administrator or work location supervisor who will do this before starting the module. If you do not have a relationship with a current administrator who can review and verify your follow-up activity, you may want to register for one of the PDA facilitated modules that does not require an administrator signature. Your local FDLRS PDA coordinator can explain which PDA facilitated courses will count for the recertification requirement for your school district. For more information about PDA facilitated modules and to contact your local FDLRS PDA coordinator, go to [www.fl-pda.org](http://www.fl-pda.org), Facilitated Modules for a link that will identify the FDLRS PDA coordinator for each school district.

**11. How can I get inservice points recorded with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), if I am not currently working in the field of education or if I work for a private school?**

Inservice credits must be submitted to the FDOE through a school district or private school agency with an approved Master Inservice Plan (MIP). On a quarterly basis, FDLRS PDA coordinators report the information about completers and module credit to Florida public school districts and upon request to private school agencies with a MIP. If you are a private school teacher, retired teacher, substitute teacher or not currently working in the field of education, it is your responsibility, before starting the module, to contact your former public school district professional development/certification department or your private school group to determine if they are able to submit inservice points to FDOE for you. If your former employer is not able to submit inservice credit to FDOE for you, you may need to use college credit for recertification.

**12. How will my inservice points get recorded?**

Quarterly (July-Sept., Oct.-Dec., Jan.-March, April-June), your local FDLRS PDA Coordinator will receive a report of module completers in their service region. Your local FDLRS center will automatically submit your inservice points to the public school district and upon request to the appropriate private school agency or will contact you with additional information. This is similar to how they process other inservice credit provided across the state. You do not need to submit your course certificate of completion or your signed follow-up verification form unless directed to do so by your local FDLRS center or school district. This varies depending on your work location and district policies. However, it is critical that you keep both documents for your own records in case there are questions about your credit in the future. If you have questions about your particular school district policies regarding inservice credit for this module, your FDLRS PDA Coordinator will be happy to assist you or direct you to the appropriate contact in your district. To contact your local FDLRS PDA coordinator, go to [www.fl-pda.org](http://www.fl-pda.org) Facilitated Modules for a link that will identify the FDLRS PDA coordinator for each school district. (If you are not currently working in the field of education, see number 11)

**13. May I print a hard copy of the course to study and keep?**

You may print each page individually. There is not a provision for printing the entire module at one time. Module content is updated annually so printed materials may become inaccurate. You may bookmark external links.

**14. Where do I access additional information re: the recertification requirements of SB 1108?**

You may access the Q and A regarding SB 1108 from the FDOE/BEES at the following link located on the BEES website: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document;6811/dps;2013;105a.pdf>; scroll to the 5th page where it explains Section 1012.585, F.S., Process for renewal of professional certificates.

**15. How do I access additional online professional development on topics related to meeting the instructional and behavioral needs of all students, including but not limited to students with identified disabilities?**

The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), a FDOE Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES) discretionary project, offers many additional PDA modules that provide free online professional learning. The PDA modules are designed to assist educators in becoming more proficient in responding to the various instructional and behavioral needs of each individual learner, including but not limited to students with disabilities, in order to maximize achievement of all students. Many of the PDA modules also provide credit for the new recertification requirement for teaching students with disabilities when appropriately coded under ESE in a school district Master Inservice Plan. Each district determines which professional development opportunities count for the recertification requirement.

- Additional Information: Visit the [www.fdlrs.org](http://www.fdlrs.org) website and click on the PDA logo or go to [www.fl-pda.org](http://www.fl-pda.org).
- Register for Facilitated Modules: Contact your local FDLRS Center PDA Coordinator for scheduling and registration information. Go to [www.fl;pda.org](http://www.fl;pda.org). Scroll down to Contacts. Click on "PDA Coordinators".
- Additional Questions: Mary Ann Ahearn [ahearnm@nefec.org](mailto:ahearnm@nefec.org); Susan O'Rear [susan.orear@fdlrsaction.org](mailto:susan.orear@fdlrsaction.org)

**PDA Online Professional Learning Modules**

<b>Facilitated Modules 60 inservice credits</b>	<b>Facilitated Modules 30 inservice credits</b>	<b>Facilitated Modules 10 inservice credits</b>
Assessment and Evaluation	Differentiating Mathematics Instruction	Technology for Student Success: Tools for Reading Comprehension
Foundations of Exceptional Education	Differentiating Science Instruction	<b>Facilitated Modules 5 inservice credits</b>
Instructional Practices	Interpersonal Interactions and Participation	Matrix of Services
Language Development and Communication Skills	<b>Facilitated Modules 20 inservice credits</b>	Surrogate Parent
Positive Behavior Support	Introduction to Differentiating Instruction	<b>Independent Study 20 inservice credits</b>
Transition	Formative Assessment for Differentiating Instruction	Teaching Students with Disabilities
Differentiating Reading Instruction for Students <i>Awards credit for Competency 4 of the Florida Reading Endorsement</i>	Technology for Student Success: An Introduction	<b>Independent Study No inservice credits</b>
	Technology for Student Success: Assistive Technology	Elementary K;6 Exam Content Review Module
		Middle Grades 5;9 Exams Content Review Modules



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