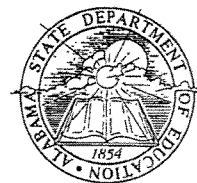




STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton  
State Superintendent  
of Education

July 9, 2010

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor Bob Riley  
President

TO: County and City Superintendents of Education

Randy McKinney  
District I  
Vice President

FROM: Joseph B. Morton  
State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
District II

SUBJECT: New Preliminary Certificate Through Exception Option and  
New HOUSSE Portfolio Option Available for Selected Teachers of Reading

Stephanie W. Bell  
District III

I wrote to you on May 6, 2010, to alert you to the fact that we were cited during a monitoring visit for *No Child Left Behind/Elementary and Secondary Education Act* for indicating that teachers who are highly qualified (HQ) to teach reading at the early childhood or elementary level were also HQ to teach struggling readers above the grade level of their professional educator certificate. We were unsuccessful in appealing that citation. (The earlier memorandum is accessible via this link: [http://www.alsde.edu/general/Highly\\_Qualified\\_Status\\_for\\_Teachers\\_of\\_Reading.pdf](http://www.alsde.edu/general/Highly_Qualified_Status_for_Teachers_of_Reading.pdf).)

Dr. Ethel H. Hall  
District IV  
Vice President  
Emerita

In that same May 6, 2010, memorandum, I provided four examples of teachers who will be affected by the citation and also told you that members of my staff were creating an option that you could initiate on behalf of general education and special education teachers who were teaching reading during 2009-2010 at a grade level higher than the teacher's valid certificate. They have done so.

Ella B. Bell  
District V

David F. Byers, Jr.  
District VI

I am writing today to explain the new option that I have authorized and that staff members will help you implement. Let me begin by asking you to review the attached SUPPLEMENT ADR. You may submit the form **no later than October 1, 2010**, on behalf of a teacher who meets the stipulated criteria to request the first Preliminary Certificate Through Exception for Reading. For qualified applicants, we will issue the first certificate for 2010-2011. **The first certificate will not be available after 2010-2011.** The teacher must be employed full-time during the 2010-2011 scholastic year, but the teacher is not required to teach reading full-time above the grade level of her or his professional educator certificate.

Gary Warren  
District VII

Dr. Mary Jane Caylor  
District VIII  
President Pro Tem

While holding a first Preliminary Certificate Through Exception for Reading for 2010-2011, the teacher of reading must document completion of an eLearning course titled *Kids, Content, and Comprehension* and meet the other criteria by the dates indicated on SUPPLEMENT ADR. You may then request a second Preliminary Certificate Through Exception for Reading to continue that teacher's employment and assignment to teach reading during 2011-2012. **The second certificate will not be available after 2011-2012.** During the second year, the teacher must complete an eLearning course to be developed and to be titled *Reading Intervention for Struggling Readers*. A teacher who has held two Preliminary Certificates Through Exception for Reading, the first for 2010-2011 and the second for 2011-2012, who taught reading during both of those scholastic years above the grade level of her or his professional educator certificate and completed the professional

Joseph B. Morton  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

development activities described above may apply for an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate with an endorsement for reading in Grades P-12. At this time, the teacher will not be required to earn a passing score on a Praxis II test because we have not validated an appropriate test.

The second document attached to this memorandum is a new HOUSSE portfolio option that may be used to document HQ status for reading. Please note this statement on page 1 of the document: "USE OF THIS OPTION TO DOCUMENT HQ STATUS IS RESTRICTED TO TEACHERS WHO HOLD A VALID ALABAMA PRELIMINARY CERTIFICATE FOR READING, GRADES P-12." You should submit SUPPLEMENT ADR and the HOUSSE portfolio together. Staff members will determine eligibility for the Preliminary Certificate Through Exception for Reading and then determine eligibility for the HQ designation for reading, P-12. If the teacher is awarded a Preliminary Certificate Through Exception for Reading but has not documented 100 points, the teacher will not be deemed HQ for reading. You will receive a status report with suggestions for assisting the teacher to achieve that goal.

Please encourage your eligible teachers to take advantage of this opportunity to add a valuable endorsement to their Alabama certificates. Questions related to requesting a Preliminary Certificate Through Exception for Reading should be directed to our Teacher Certification staff member assigned to your school system. Questions related to the new HOUSSE portfolio should be directed to Dr. Jayne A. Meyer ([jmeyer@alsde.edu](mailto:jmeyer@alsde.edu) or 334-242-9560).

JBM/JAM/SG

Attachments

cc:	Dr. Eddie R. Johnson	Mr. Larry Craven
	Dr. Tommy Bice	Dr. Deann Stone
	Mr. Feagin Johnson	Dr. Jayne A. Meyer
	Mrs. Sherrill W. Parris	Mrs. Sarah P. Justiss

FY10-4056