



FDLRS HEARTLAND'S NEWSLETTER

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Serving: DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, and Highlands Counties
www.heartlanded.org/fdlrs

SWD and Me

During the 2013 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 1108 was passed and signed into law. It added an ESE (Exceptional Student Education) instruction component — 20 in-service hours or 1 college credit — to the professional certification requirements without increasing the total number of hours needed for recertification.

Who has to do this?

Every teacher must take one college credit or 20 hours of in-service training on teaching students with disabilities (SWD) in order to recertify.

Isn't this requirement only for ESE teachers?

No. Beginning on July 1, 2014 and thereafter, the law requires every teacher have 1 college credit or the equivalent in-service points (20 hours) as part of their professional certificate renewal.

What's the importance of this Bill?

Students of all abilities and backgrounds want classrooms that are inclusive and convey respect. However, for students with disabilities the classroom setting may present certain challenges that require accommodations and student specific strategies. While effective teaching requires expert knowledge of the curriculum, skills, and methods, it also requires understanding of the student holistically. Participating in professional development directly related to engaging students with disabilities helps teachers identify and remove barriers to learning.

Where can I get these points?

FDLRS is one source for these points. Many of their Professional Development Alternative (PDA) online classes meet the SWD requirement, but check with the HR departments in your district to be sure. Also a lot of the professional development opportunities offered by FDLRS and FIN meet the requirements. A word of caution: **DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE TO GET THESE 20 POINTS!!**

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