# Professional Development Alternatives Independent Study Modules

## PDA Teaching Students with Disabilities
## Frequently Asked Questions www.fl-pda.org

*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. However, it could be used as an option to meet the meet the recertification requirement for teaching students with disabilities credit (Renewal Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities DPS 2014-12). Each school district or private school agency determines if the module satisfies the requirement for their employees.*

1. **How do I access the Teaching Students with Disabilities independent study module?**
   You may register for the module at 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!" then fill out all fields. Click "Submit Your Registration." On the next screen, choose Teaching Students with Disabilities then click "Enroll". You will be directed to complete the demographic survey in order to enroll in the module.

2. **How many inservice points may I receive for completing *Teaching Students with Disabilities* independent study module?**
   Upon completion of ALL module requirements participants will be eligible to earn 20 inservice credits (no partial credit is awarded). Each school district or private school agency determines if the content of this module satisfies the content requirement for teaching students with disabilities credit (Renewal Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities DPS 2014-12) for their employees. Districts or private school agencies also have the option of requiring additional follow-up activities in order to award the 20 inservice credits. Inservice Credits are reported to FDOE by a school district or private school agency with an approved Master Inservice Plan (MIP) or its equivalent. Your local FDLRS PDA coordinator will report module completers to the appropriate school districts in their service region. Verification of completion will be sent to private school agencies upon request.

3. **May I earn partial credit for the module?**
   No. You must complete all of the requirements outlined in number 7 of this document to earn inservice credits. No partial credit will be awarded.

4. **Who can complete the Teaching Students with Disabilities independent study module?**
   This module has been developed for educators currently employed in education in the state of Florida. If you are not currently employed in education in Florida, it is your responsibility, prior to starting the module, to verify the following two items. If you are unable to satisfy both items, you may need to take university courses to earn recertification credit.
   1. Identify an administrator actively employed in education who is willing to review your follow-up activity and verify that it has been completed. FDLRS cannot verify follow-up activities.
   2. Contact your former school district or private school agency to determine if they are able to submit inservice credits to FDOE for you.

5. **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.

6. **How is the module content 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. There is also a final assessment and required follow-up activity.

7. **What are the *Teaching Students with Disabilities* module requirements?**
   Part I: Complete module content, including readings and activities, "Check Your Knowledge" quizzes (with 80% accuracy) and a Final Assessment (with 80% accuracy).
   Part 2: Complete one of the four follow-up activity options, have the follow-up activity reviewed and verified by a work location administrator or supervisor, confirm completion of follow-up activity, upload Follow-up Activity Verification Form and respond to the final satisfaction survey.

8. **Will I be working with a facilitator?**
   No. This is an independent study module. It is not facilitated. The module content will provide you with directions for completing the module. For technical troubleshooting contact: support+TSWD@fcim.org.

9. **How long do I have to complete the *Teaching Students with Disabilities* module?**
   You have sixteen weeks to complete both Part 1 and Part 2 requirements. If you do not complete Part 1 and Part 2 requirements during that time, you will need to reregister for the module. If you have completed the final assessment before the deadline, your final assessment results will be saved.

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. It is your responsibility, prior to starting the module, to ensure that you have an administrator or work location supervisor, actively employed in education in Florida, who will do this.** FDLRS staff do not review and verify follow-up options.
    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 may 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. Locate the section titled "Facilitated Modules" for a link that will take you to a list identifying 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?**
    FDLRS does not report inservice credits directly to FDOE. FDLRS reports inservice credits to local school districts and private school agencies, upon request. Inservice Credits are reported to FDOE by a school district or private school agency with an approved Master Inservice Plan (MIP) or its equivalent. If you are not currently employed in education in Florida, **it is your responsibility, prior to starting the module,** to verify that your former school district or private school agency is able to submit inservice credits to FDOE for you. If the district or agency is unable to do this, you may need to take a college/university course to earn the credit to recertify.

12. **How will my inservice points get recorded?**
    Your local FDLRS PDA coordinator will report module completers to the appropriate school districts in their service region. Verification of completion will be sent to private school agencies upon request. If you have questions about your particular school district policies regarding inservice credit for this module, your local FDLRS PDA Coordinator will be happy to assist you or direct you to the appropriate contact in your district. To contact, go to www.fl-pda.org. Locate the section titled "Facilitated Modules" for a link that will take you to a list identifying the FDLRS PDA coordinator for each school district. If you have general questions about your certification or recertification contact your district/agency personnel or certification department or FDOE. FDLRS provides professional development for educators. FDLRS staff are not certification specialists.

13. **I have to recertify by June 30 of this school year; is there anything I need to know?**
PDA independent study modules are available year round however if a participant is taking a PDA independent study module and needs inservice credit to recertify by June 30 of the current school year, all requirements of the PDA independent study module must be met on or before May 15 of the current school year.

14. **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. To print a page, right click on the page and select the "print" option. Follow your browser's instructions. Only the visible content that appears on the page will print, so be sure to click on the triangles to expand additional content before printing or use the download links where provided.

15. **Where do I access additional information regarding the recertification requirements of SB 1108?**
Technical Assistance Paper: Renewal Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities
http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6975/dps-2014-12a.pdf

16. **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?**
FDLRS, a FDOE Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) discretionary project, www.fdlrs.org, offers 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 may provide credit for the new recertification requirement for teaching students with disabilities, However, each school district or private school agency determines which professional development opportunities satisfies the requirement for their employees.

**FDLRS PDA Online Professional Development Modules: www.fl-pda.org**

| **Facilitated Modules 60 inservice credits** | **Facilitated Modules 30 inservice credits** | **Facilitated Modules 10 inservice credits** |
|---|---|---|
| Assessment and Evaluation | Differentiating Mathematics Instruction | Technology for Student Success: Tools for Reading Comprehension |
| Foundations of Exceptional Education | Differentiating Science Instruction | **Facilitated Modules 5 inservice credits** |
| Instructional Practices | Interpersonal Interactions and Participation | Matrix of Services |
| | | Surrogate Parent |
| Language Development and Communication Skills | **Facilitated Modules 20 inservice credits** | **Independent Study 20 inservice credits** |
| PBS: Understanding Student Behavior | Introduction to Differentiating Instruction | NEW! Effective Teaching Practices for Students with Disabilities: Focusing on the Content Areas |
| Transition | Engaging Learners through Informative Assessment | Teaching Students with Disabilities |
| Differentiating Reading Instruction for Students *Awards credit for Competency 4 of the Florida Reading Endorsement* | Technology for Student Success: An Introduction | **Independent Study No inservice credit** |
| | Technology for Student Success: Assistive Technology | Elementary K-6 Exam Content Review Module |
| | | Middle Grades 5-9 Exams Content Review Modules (Inservice Credit available Fall 2015) |

Funded by the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Students Services.
Coordinated by FDLRS, a FDOE/BEESS project in collaboration with the Florida Center for Interactive Media.