

BESE Portal

Professional Development Alternatives

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions for Facilitated Courses

The BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) is a partnership between the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE) and the Bureau of Educator Certification. Available to Florida educators since 2003, the courses are funded by the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE). Courses are coordinated by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Administration Project and the eighteen FDLRS Network Associate Centers, a FLDOE/BESE project, in collaboration with the Florida Center for Interactive Media at FSU.

Index of Facilitated Courses		
60 inservice credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment & Evaluation • Foundations of Exceptional Student Education • Instructional Practices • Transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBS: Understanding Student Behavior • Differentiating Reading Instruction (<i>May award credit for Competency 4 of the FL Reading Endorsement</i>)
40 inservice credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Structured Literacy 	
30 inservice credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiating Mathematics Instruction • Differentiating Science Instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIM-EPD Concept Mastery Routine • SIM-EPD Unit Organizer Routine
20 inservice credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Differentiating Instruction • Engaging Learners through Informative Assessment • Technology for the Diverse Classroom • Introduction to Assistive Technology • Technology to Support Reading Comprehension 	
5-10 inservice credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matrix of Services • Surrogate Parent 	

1. What is BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA)?

Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) online courses are designed to assist educators in becoming more proficient in responding to the various instructional and behavioral needs of individual learners to maximize achievement of all students. The BESE Portal contains the PDA facilitated courses and Independent Study courses.

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses www.fl-pda.org

The BESE Portal is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education. Coordinated by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), and the Personnel Development Support Project (FLDOE/BESE discretionary projects).

BESE Portal

Professional Development Alternatives

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions for Facilitated Courses

2. What are the characteristics of the PDA Facilitated Courses?

The BESE Portal offers both facilitated courses and independent study courses. Both types of courses share the following characteristics:

- Available statewide
- Free to Florida educators
- Resources and content are reviewed monthly and updated annually by expert writers
- High-quality online content and a variety of learning activities for self-paced study
- Classroom-related assessment tasks
- Consistent, user-friendly format and organization
- Technology support
- Support Florida's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

3. What are the requirements of a PDA facilitated course?

The requirements of facilitated PDA Courses vary depending on the course; however, with all facilitated courses participants will:

- Engage in orientation and additional face-to-face or virtual group meetings.
- Study course content and access current external links to information available through the internet.
- Complete assessment tasks including quizzes, discussion board prompts, and dropbox assignments

4. Where can I learn more about the content of the PDA facilitated courses?

Facilitated course descriptions are available at the PDA website www.fl-pda.org. On the left of the page, select: View Course Descriptions.

5. Who can participate in the PDA facilitated courses?

The PDA facilitated courses have been developed for educators currently employed in education in the state of Florida; however, if not currently employed in education in Florida and seeking inservice credits for recertification, PDA courses may be taken if certain criteria are met. Read numbers fifteen through eighteen of this document for more information about inservice credit.

6. If I am outside of the United States, may I participate in a PDA facilitated course?

Educators who are living outside the United States are permitted to participate in any of the PDA facilitated courses if they are able to access it through www.fl-pda.org; however, there is no technical support system in place for users outside of the country unable to access the site.

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses www.fl-pda.org

The BESE Portal is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education. Coordinated by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), and the Personnel Development Support Project (FLDOE/BESE discretionary projects).

BESE Portal

Professional Development Alternatives

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions for Facilitated Courses

7. I have never taken an online course. How will I know what to do?

A face-to-face or in a virtual orientation prior to starting the course for all facilitated PDA courses. Your FDLRS PDA Coordinator and Facilitator will provide you with information prior to orientation. During orientation for facilitated courses the following occurs:

- ✓ Meet the FDLRS PDA Facilitator
- ✓ Learn more about PDA and D2L (PDA learning management system)
- ✓ Receive a username, password and course syllabus
- ✓ Learn to navigate the course

8. Do I need to take all PDA facilitated courses, and do I need to take the courses in a particular order?

It is not necessary to take courses in a particular order. Additionally, participants may choose the courses meeting their needs.

9. Can I participate in a PDA facilitated course if I am not currently working with students?

It is best to talk to the course facilitator to discuss how to proceed. The facilitator may have options to successfully complete the course.

10. Are PDA facilitated courses offered year around?

PDA facilitated courses are offered on an ongoing basis both at a local level and with statewide registration from July 15-May 15. If applicable, FDLRS PDA Coordinators will report inservice credits to the school districts in their service region to meet the June 30 recertification deadline.

11. May I earn partial credit for PDA facilitated courses?

It is necessary to complete all the course requirements to earn inservice credits. No partial credit is awarded for any PDA facilitated courses.

12. How do I register for a PDA facilitated course?

Facilitated courses are offered with statewide registration and are also offered by the local FDLRS centers.

- **Facilitated Courses Offered Locally:** Contact the local FDLRS PDA Coordinator for course availability, scheduling, registration, and district inservice credit information. Coordinator contact information is available at www.fl-pda.org.
- **Facilitated Courses Offered Statewide:** Go to www.fl-pda.org and select the Statewide Registration banner.

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses www.fl-pda.org

The BESE Portal is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education. Coordinated by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), and the Personnel Development Support Project (FLDOE/BESE discretionary projects).



BESE Portal

Professional Development Alternatives

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions for Facilitated Courses

13. How long do I have to complete a PDA facilitated course? How many hours will I spend on a course?

The typical number of inservice credits indicates the approximate number of hours spent working on PDA facilitated course. Since participant background knowledge, study habits, and experience varies, it is difficult to determine the length of time individuals require to thoroughly study the content and complete assessment tasks. Facilitated courses are scheduled with beginning and ending dates and a course syllabus is provided to assist with time management.

14. What happens if I need to drop a PDA facilitated course after I have enrolled? What happens if I fall behind with course requirements?

During a PDA facilitated course, it is required to follow the course syllabus and due dates. At the midpoint of the course, it is also expected for participants to have all requirements complete. If coursework is not current at the midpoint, the PDA Facilitator or Coordinator may suggest to re-register for the course at a different time.

If unable to meet the expectations, contact the PDA Facilitator immediately. If enrollment is cancelled, a record of completed work will be on file for approximately one year. Upon re-enrollment, finished and passed work is not required to complete.

15. How do I know how many inservice credits I need to recertify?

All questions regarding individual certification or recertification should be directed to local personnel/certification department or to the Florida Department of Education Certification office <http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/index.stml>. It is critical to get the information specifically related to the certification situations. FDLRS PDA Coordinators can answer questions regarding credit for FDLRS professional development. FDLRS staff are not certification specialists.

BESE Portal

Professional Development Alternatives

BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses 2021-2022 Frequently Asked Questions for Facilitated Courses

16. How can I get inservice credits recorded with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)?

- **For current, active educators:** FDLRS does not report inservice credits directly to FLDOE. Inservice credits are reported to FLDOE by a school district or private school agency with an approved Professional Learning Catalog (PLC) or its equivalent. Your local FDLRS PDA coordinator will report course completers to the appropriate school districts in their service region. Verification of completion will be sent to private school agencies upon request. Districts or private school agencies also have the option of requiring additional follow-up activities to award inservice credits.
- **For educators not currently working in the field of education:** FDLRS does not report inservice credits directly to FLDOE. Inservice Credits are reported to FLDOE by a school district or private school agency with an approved Professional Learning Catalog (PLC) or its equivalent. It is the responsibility of the participant, prior to starting the course, to verify the former school district or private school agency can submit inservice credits to FLDOE. If the district or agency is unable assist, it may be necessary to take university credit for recertification.

17. Do ALL PDA courses satisfy the content requirement for teaching students with disabilities (Renewal Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities 1012.585, F.S.)?

Many of the PDA facilitated courses support the recertification requirement of 20 hours in teaching students with disabilities (Renewal Credit in Teaching Students with Disabilities 1012.585, F.S.), however, each school district or private school agency determines which courses satisfy the content requirement for their employees. Participants should check with their district or local [FDLRS PDA Coordinator](#) to inquire about each PDA course.

Any additional questions can be directed to the PDA Management Team at PDAQuestions@gmail.com or contact your [local PDA Coordinator](#)



BESE Portal to Professional Development Alternatives (PDA) Courses www.fl-pda.org

The BESE Portal is funded by the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education. Coordinated by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), and the Personnel Development Support Project (FLDOE/BESE discretionary projects).