

Assistance Available for Preparing to Pass the Florida ESE Certification Exam

Both The State of Florida's Department of Education and the local FDLRS Emerald Coast Associate Center offer assistance to any person preparing to obtain ESE teaching certification as noted below. **Questions?** Call FDLRS Emerald Coast Associate Center at (850) 469-5423 or 1-888-445-9662.

Offered by the State of Florida

Free test preparation materials at http://www.fl.nesinc.com/FL_TIGS.asp Materials are available online to anyone preparing to pass the General Knowledge, Professional Education, Educational Leadership and Subject-Area certification tests. All materials are free of charge, and can be printed from the website, including preparation for each listed test, test taking advice, competencies measured by the test, test format information, sample questions with an answer key to check your progress, and helpful references/resources. *ALL specific subject areas for which preparation materials are available are listed below; exceptional education areas are highlighted in red:*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture 6–12• Art K–12• Biology 6–12• Business Education 6–12• Chemistry 6–12• Computer Science K–12• Drama 6–12• Earth/Space Science 6–12• Educational Media Specialist PK–12• Elementary Education K–6• Engineering and Technology Education 6–12• English 6–12• ESOL K–12• Exceptional Student Education K–12• Family and Consumer Science 6–12• French K–12• German K–12• Guidance and Counseling PK–12• Health K–12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hearing Impaired K–12• Humanities K–12• Latin K–12• Marketing 6–12• Mathematics 6–12• Middle Grades English 5–9• Middle Grades General Science 5–9• Middle Grades Mathematics 5–9• Middle Grades Social Science 5–9• Music K–12• Physical Education K–12• Physics 6–12• Prekindergarten/Primary PK–3• Preschool Education (Birth–Age 4)• Reading K–12• School Psychologist PK–12• Social Science 6–12• Spanish K–12• Speech-Language Impaired K–12• Visually Impaired K–12 |
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FREE: ON-DEMAND, ONLINE COURSES

- **PDA: Teaching Students with Disabilities, 20 points (on-demand, online)**
 - www.fl-pda.org. Scroll to **Independent** study courses, click the sign-in link, find “New User/Register Here,” click that and complete sign up. Once registered, choose TSWD for a good background in law, policy, procedure, and methods/strategies for teaching students with disabilities.
- Also at www.fl-pda.org: Elementary K–6 Exam Content Review, zero points (on-demand, online)
- <https://fl-pda.org/#/category/25> ESE Foundations Content Review, zero points (same content as 60-point course, on-demand, online)

A limited selection of books are also available for test preparation from FDLRS Emerald Coast Associate Center:

Up to three books may be borrowed for a four-week period. Request by shelf code, in person or via phone, (850) 469-5423 or 1-888-445-9662. Materials include, or are similar to:

FTCE Exceptional Student Education, K-12 (2020), published by Research & Education Association. Includes end-of-chapter quizzes and test prep methods, and two full-length practice tests focused on the six state-defined competencies assessed by the FTCE ESE exam. **Shelf code EXAM 2.**

FTCE Elementary Education, K-6 (2016, published 2021), Research & Education Association. Includes tips on passing the examination, and a targeted review in language arts and reading, social science, science, and mathematics. One practice test with answer key that includes detailed explanations of answers is included. **Shelf Code EXAM 1.**

FTCE Professional Education Test, (2015, published in 2021), Research & Education Association. Includes information on test taking skills, and covers the eight competencies measured. One practice test with answer key that includes detailed explanations of answers is included. **Shelf Code EXAM 3.**

Online FACILITATED Courses/Materials offered by the State of Florida in collaboration with the FDLRS Emerald Coast Associate Center

- **PDA Foundations of Exceptional Student Education**, 60 points, *online course, offered on a schedule advertised via email and social media notices (FDLRS/Emerald Coast on Facebook and @FDLRS_EmeraldC on Twitter)* This online course is designed to increase participant's knowledge of foundations of exceptional student education as outlined in the following Exceptional Student Educator Competencies revised in 2009. It is also available as an unfacilitated online self-study (no inservice credit hours are available for unfacilitated courses) under the **Independent Study** tab at <http://www.fl-pda.org>.
 1. Identify state and federal legislation and case law that have affected the education of students with disabilities.
 2. Identify appropriate practices based on legal and ethical standards (e.g., due process, procedural safeguards, confidentiality, access to general education, least restrictive environment, transition planning, free appropriate public education).
 3. Demonstrate knowledge of the required policies and processes for developing individual education plans (IEPs), individualized family service plans (IFSPs), and transition IEPs.
 4. Identify the classification systems and eligibility criteria under the current Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.
 5. Compare the development and characteristics (e.g., language, cognitive-academic, social-emotional, sensory, physical-motor) of children with disabilities to the development and characteristics of children without disabilities.
 6. Interpret curriculum information and assessment data for IEP and child study team members.
 7. Identify models of support for assisting students with disabilities in accessing the general education curricula.
 8. Identify the purposes and functions of professional and advocacy organizations relevant to educating students with disabilities.
- **PDA Instructional Practices**, 60 points, *online course, offered on a schedule advertised via email and social media notices (FDLRS Emerald Coast on Facebook and @FDLRS_EmeraldC on Twitter)* This course is designed to increase participants' knowledge of instructional practices in exceptional student education as outlined in the following Exceptional Student Educator Competencies revised in 2009.
 1. Analyze assessment information to identify a student's educational needs and instructional levels in order to select appropriate specialized instructional techniques, strategies, and materials.
 2. Identify characteristics of reliable sources of scientifically based research related to instructional practices.

3. Identify instructional strategies for acquisition, generalization, and maintenance of skills (e.g., functional and applied academic skills, workplace and career skills, and independent living skills) across school, home, work, and community settings.
4. Select relevant general education and alternate standards and curricula appropriate for a student's age, instructional needs, and functional performance across settings.
5. Identify methods for differentiating, accommodating, and modifying assessment, instruction, and materials in order to meet individual student needs (e.g., related to age, gender, cultural and linguistic background, preferred communication mode).
6. Identify effective methods of communication, consultation, and collaboration with students, families, parents, guardians, administrators, general education teachers, paraprofessionals, and other professionals, including students, families, and team members from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, as equal members of the educational team.
7. Identify effective classroom management and flexible grouping strategies for specific instructional activities.
8. Identify effective instructional methods (e.g., explicit and systematic instruction, scaffolding, and modeling) for integrating reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, researching, and presenting across the curricula.
9. Identify instructional strategies that help students comprehend and apply knowledge of informational text structure (e.g., cause and effect, chronological order, compare and contrast) and text features (e.g., index, glossary, and subheading).
10. Identify criteria for selecting and evaluating both print and non-print media (e.g., Internet, software, trade books, textbooks, DVDs, videos) for instructional use to match student needs and interests.
11. Identify effective instructional methods and supports (e.g., direct instruction, visual supports, and manipulatives) for teaching mathematics and integrating mathematics across the curricula.

- **PDA An Introduction to Differentiating Instruction: Responding to All Learners**, 15 points, *online course, offered on a schedule advertised via email and social media notices (FDLRS Emerald Coast on Facebook and @FDLRS_EmeraldC on Twitter; can also be taken as a “live” 2-day course: Dealing with Differences. Live courses are advertised at www.fdlrsemeraldcost.org under the “Training” tab.*

This course is designed to help the practicing teacher do the following; however, it can also be used by teachers in preparation for the Exceptional Education certification exam if they wish to further develop skills in differentiating lessons. The skill elements include a teacher's ability to:

- Evaluate their current practice related to the guidelines of differentiation.
- Discuss the rationale for differentiation.
- Determine what is most important for students to Know-Understand-Do.
- Make the connection between meaningful differentiation and continuous assessment.
- Identify the characteristics of a responsive learning environment.
- Analyze a differentiated assignment.

Information current as of 10/8/2021