Utah State Office of Education

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the Utah Reading Endorsements Levels 1 and 2

Updated September 2012

1. Q. What are the requirements for the Reading Endorsements?
   A. The requirements are listed in detail on the applications, which are found at http://www.schools.utah.gov/cert/Endorsements-ECE-License.aspx
   To help ensure that the reading knowledge of applicants represents current research and best practices, these requirements/courses must meet the following criteria:
      1. Courses must be a minimum of three semester hours.
      2. Courses must be graduate level.
      3. Courses must be taken within five years of the date of this application.
      4. Courses taken from online programs will be accepted.
      5. University courses are reviewed and approved by agreement with USOE.
      6. Professional Development courses (e.g. those offered by NUCC, CITES, SUTEC, etc.) must be pre-approved by USOE and entered in OnTrack (see http://www.schools.utah.gov/cert/DOCS/Other/About-OnTrack.aspx).

2. Q. Is there an Elementary AND a Secondary Reading Endorsement?
   A. No. There is a Reading Endorsement Level 1 (Basic) and a Reading Endorsement Level 2 (Advanced). These endorsements may be attached to licenses with Elementary, Secondary, or K-12 Special Education areas of concentration. Teachers may, however, focus their endorsement on a specific level by taking alternative courses to satisfy two different requirements: Requirement 5, Understanding and Supporting Early Literacy, may be satisfied by taking an Adolescent Literacy course; Requirement 8, Instruction with Children's Literature and Informational Text, may be satisfied by taking an Adolescent Literature course. If a teacher takes the secondary-focused alternative courses for Requirements 5 and 8, it does not, however, become a "Secondary" Reading Endorsement.

3. Q. Can a teacher with a secondary area of concentration license and a Level 1 or Level 2 Reading Endorsement teach small groups, pull-out, or push-in groups in an elementary school?
   A. No.

4. Q. Can a teacher with an elementary area of concentration license and a Level 1 or Level 2 Reading Endorsement teach reading classes in grades 9-12?
   A. No. They can teach reading courses in Grades 7 and 8, along with K-6.

5. Q. Can a teacher with a Level 1 or Level 2 Reading Endorsement, but whose only license is the K-12 Special Education area of concentration (no elementary or secondary area of concentration license) teach small groups, pull-out, or push-in groups in an elementary school?

A. A teacher with only a K-12 Special Education license may not be the teacher of record, but may provide Tier 2 instruction under the direct supervision of a highly qualified teacher, generally the classroom teacher. The teacher may not deliver primary instruction to students, and must provide services in a push-in model only.

6. Q. Does having a Reading Endorsement from another state automatically give me one in Utah?
   A. No. All persons applying for Reading Endorsements must meet the requirements of the Utah Reading Endorsements. Having some kind of Reading Endorsement or specialty in another state does not automatically grant you a Reading Endorsement in Utah, as the requirements differ widely from state to state. The application will be reviewed to determine whether the eight requirements for Level 1 or the three requirements for Level 2 have been satisfied.

7. Q. What do I do if the course name on my transcript is a generic title (e.g. "Special Topics in Education," but is, in fact, one of the courses required for the Endorsement (e.g. Foundations of Literacy, Content-Area Literacy Instruction, etc.)?
   A. For various reasons, usually in the case of extension-type courses, sometimes universities list courses on the transcript with these generic titles. This leaves USOE unable to determine if the requirement has been met by simply examining the transcript. If the course was offered by a university in Utah, the applicant should submit a letter from the university department, on letterhead, indicating the actual course title and content. If the course is from a university outside Utah, the applicant must submit evidence of the course content, such as a syllabus and name of text used.

9. Q. I am applying for a Reading Endorsement from out-of-state. Titles of the courses I have taken do not match those described in the application, but I think I've covered the same content. How do I proceed with the application?
   A. If you plan to use courses taken at universities outside of Utah to satisfy the requirements, often the course titles do not match those described in the application. If this is the case, you must submit copies of course syllabi, name of text used, etc. to verify the course content of those courses. Often the course description from the university catalog is helpful.

10. Q. How are out-of-state applications for Reading Endorsements evaluated?
    A. The same criteria are applied to out-of-state applications as in-state applications—seven course requirements AND a passing score on Praxis 0204 for the Level 1, three requirements for the Level 2, three credit-hour courses, graduate level courses, etc. (see the applications posted on the web). Transcripts are evaluated to verify that these requirements are met. If the courses are not an obvious match to the requirements, the applicant will be asked to submit syllabi demonstrating that the course in question covered the content of the specific requirement.

11. Q. Does a Reading Recovery Endorsement satisfy any of the seven requirements for a Reading Endorsement Level 1?
    A. Yes. A Reading Recovery certification can be used to satisfy Requirement 5, Understanding and Supporting Early Literacy.

12. Q. Does completion of a one-week National Writing Project course satisfy Requirement 7 (the writing requirement)?
    A. Yes. Currently these are offered at Brigham Young University and Weber State University. You must, of course, submit transcript evidence of successful completion.

13. Q. I contacted USOE with a question about a particular requirement, and we made an agreement as a result of that conversation. When submitting my application, how do I communicate to USOE any prior agreements?
    A. Given the passage of time (often these go back years) and the change in USOE staff, it is the responsibility of the applicant to submit documentation of anything out of the ordinary about the application. If, for example, you have contacted USOE regarding your endorsement, and believe there are any special circumstances, you must attach to your application a copy of the email or letter from USOE that outlines and approves those circumstances. USOE may answer general questions upon inquiry, but any binding agreements will be placed in an e-mail or a letter to the applicant and should be attached to the applicant's endorsement application.

13. Q. There are two requirements for the Reading Endorsement Level 1 that were previously part of the requirements for the Reading Endorsement Level 2: Requirement 5 (Understanding and Supporting Early Literacy) and Requirement 6 (Reading Comprehension Instruction). If I have a Reading Endorsement Level 1 which was issued during the time those requirements were in the Reading Endorsement Level 2, and wish to apply for the Level 2 Endorsement now, what do I do about those two requirements?
    A. If the Reading Endorsement Level 1 was issued when those two requirements were in the Reading Endorsement Level 2, these requirements are considered part of the Reading Endorsement Level 2 for that applicant.

14. Q. Do I have to pass a test in order to earn a Reading Endorsement?
    A. To earn Reading Endorsement 1: Yes. You must earn a minimum score of 154 on Praxis 0204 "Teaching Reading."
    A. To earn Reading Endorsement 2: No.

15. Q. Does passing the Praxis 0204 take the place of the other seven requirements?
    A. No. It is one of eight total requirements, as indicated on the endorsement application.