



## *Alternative Certification Educator: ACE Program*

The **Alternative Certification Educator [ACE] Program** in Polk County Schools is designed for new teachers who have non-education degrees and wish to become professionally certified. It offers an attractive low-cost alternative to the expense of education courses!

To be eligible for the program you must:

1. Have a bachelor's degree or higher.
2. Hold a full-time teaching position with the Polk County School System.
3. Pass an FLDOE Subject Area Exam for which you teach. Go to <http://www.fl.nesinc.com> to get more information regarding FLDOE tests.
4. Complete an application (visit <http://www.polk-fl.net/staff/professionaldevelopment/ace.htm> )

Enrollment in the ACE program encompasses:

1. Competency-based online coursework with the assistance of online tutors who are primarily National Board Certified teachers of Polk County Schools.
2. Implementation of strategies, assessment, classroom management, etc. in your own classroom.
3. FLDOE required tests for certification:
  - a. A Subject Area Exam
  - b. General Knowledge Test
  - c. Professional Education Test
4. Completion of competency two of the reading endorsement.
5. A minimum of three observations by an administrator for communication, diversity and learning environment.

Some advantages are:

1. The program is only \$750.00.
2. The competency-based program is online and can be accessed anytime from a laptop or home computer linked to the Internet.
3. The program is self-paced and asynchronous, not requiring specific times of participation.
4. If a teacher has already completed the Professional Educator Competency Program (PEC), this will meet all observation requirements of the ACE Program.
5. All ESOL courses can be taken through Polk County Schools at no cost in addition to ACE.
6. A face-to-face orientation, Focus on Accomplished Practices, is offered each month of the school year and provides start-up guidance for new participants and an optional focus of individual tasks for those interested.
7. The online tutors are primarily NBCT teachers of Polk County who provide continual assistance throughout the process. Many provide one-on-one assistance to their participants!

Please visit <http://www.polk-fl.net/staff/professionaldevelopment/ace.htm> for more information or please contact Vivian Castelli in the Professional Learning Department if you need more information or have additional questions and concerns.

Thank you for your interest!

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