

Instructional and Professional Development

March 2021

Respectfully Submitted by Shanalyn Eckenrod

New Teacher Induction Program:

This year's New Teacher Induction week was done virtually and the sessions were recorded for future use. The platform for the previously recorded sessions and new sessions will be Edpuzzle. The recordings in this classroom fully take place of induction week for teachers who were hired after the beginning of the school year.

Teachers in their second year of the induction must complete SAS classes to complete their induction hours. There are several teachers who are beyond their second year in the district and have not completed these classes. Ms. Kline has sent several email notifications to those teachers who are behind in their coursework. If the induction program is not completed as required, Level II certification cannot be granted.

Mentor Teachers are assigned by building administration and approved by the school board for compensation. Mentor Teachers must be tenured teachers.

Teacher Buddy Program:

This is a program designed to assist teachers who are new to a building or the Reading School District who have already completed an induction program prior to his/her new assignment. This program requires 5 hours of time that a "new" teacher meets with his/her Buddy Teacher. There is a packet to be completed, which is different from the induction program packet.

Buddy Teachers are assigned by building administration and approved by the school board for compensation (in board agendas/minutes Buddy Teachers will be approved as mentors). Buddy Teachers must be tenured teachers.

Clearances:

Reading School District requires updated clearances upon hire and then every five years after that. This change began in 2015. It is your responsibility to maintain your clearances and keep them up to date (within five years).

If you have questions regarding this, you can contact Linda Pelker pelkerLL@readingsd.org. It is suggested you scan your clearances and email them. Please refer to the RSD Handbook for more information.

Frontline Professional Growth:

Sign up for professional development sessions at least one day early on Frontline. If you are not signed up online, you will not receive the credits. Additionally, all courses have the Learning Experience Evaluation completed and must be marked completed and have the in order to receive credit. Any issues with Frontline should be directed to Sheryl Clemens.

Act 48:

It is your responsibility to make sure that your Act 48 hours are up to date. You should periodically check your Act 48 hours using the following website:

<https://www.perms.ed.state.pa.us/screens/wfpublicaccess.aspx>

Level 2 Certification:

Employees are responsible for applying for their Level 2 certification before 6 years of service. Level 2 certifications take a long time to process, so make sure you apply early! Visit the REA website for links to information about Level 2 certification. I can also assist you with any questions you may have.

When you submit your paperwork to your principal for approval, give them a month of time before politely asking about the status of your paperwork. After 3 months without completion, see your building rep!

Upcoming In-Services:

March 22nd: Downtown is currently working on what this day will look like. The bulk of the day will be geared towards building preparation for PSSA testing, including the PSSA module. Additional topics could include School Improvement Plans (SIP), Equity, and Trauma Informed Care.

ESL and Special Ed Departments - Be on the lookout for information about your own separate in-service information for March 22nd to better meet your department's directives and initiatives.

Ideas or Suggestions for In-Service or Act 80?

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for professional development topics for future in-service days or if you have any instructional concerns.

Feel free to contact me at seckenrod@comcast.net with any questions!