INSTITUTION:  

ANALYSIS FORM FOR:  290-3-3-.45.01 Reading Specialist (Grades P-12) (adopted 9/13/2018)

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<td>(2) Unconditional Admission to a Reading Specialist Program.</td>
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(a) Requirements for unconditional admission to the Class A reading specialist program shall include one of the following:

1. A valid bachelor’s-level professional educator certificate in early childhood education, elementary education, or collaborative special education teacher (K-6) and two full years of full-time classroom teaching experience;
   - or
2. A valid bachelor’s-level professional educator certificate in any area of education, two full years of full-time classroom teaching experience, and a passing score on the Praxis Teaching Reading test validated for use in Alabama.

(b) In addition to meeting the criteria in rule 290-3-3-.45.01(2) (a)1. or 2., if an individual is unconditionally admitted to an Alabama Class A program based on a valid bachelor’s- or valid master’s-level professional educator certificate from another state, completes a Class A program, and subsequently applies for Alabama certification at the Class A level, then the individual must hold at least a Class B certificate before applying for Class A certification.

(4) Requirements for Certification as a Reading Specialist. Readiness to serve as reading specialist shall include:

(a) An official transcript from a regionally accredited institution documenting an earned master’s degree.

(b) A survey of special education course is required unless that course was taken for prior level certification. [See Rule 290-3-3-.01(51)]. An individual who
completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to a Class A program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, must take a course focused primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education. A course used to meet this requirement for one level of certification may not be used to meet the requirement for a higher level of certification.

(c) Satisfactory completion of a State-approved program with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved educator reparation program.

Effective for candidates unconditionally admitted to a Class A reading specialist program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, satisfactory completion of a State-approved program with a minimum GPA of 3.25 on all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved program.

(d) Competence to serve as a reading specialist as demonstrated in an internship of at least 300 clock hours that complies with Rule 290-3-3-.42(5)(d).

(e) A valid Class B Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field.

(5) Testing for Certification as a Reading Specialist. Applicants for initial certification as a reading specialist through the completion of a Class A program must meet the Praxis requirements of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP) as a precondition of certification.
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(6) Faculty Qualifications for a Reading Specialist Program. The faculty specialist for the reading specialist program shall possess an earned doctorate in reading. Additional information is provided in Rule 290-3-3-.01(33). The faculty specialist shall be currently involved in conducting research related to learning to read and the teaching of reading; shall understand the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI); shall teach courses required in the program; and shall advise candidates seeking certification through program completion.

Comments: