**Endorsement Courses for the Gifted Implementation Guidelines**

## Introduction

The modules are manuals which act as a guide for a gifted endorsement course. Included you will find suggested resources, a list of pre-requisite skills, objectives, components, activities and assignments.

It is understood that there will be flexibility in course formats (number of meetings, duration of each meeting) depending on the participants and nature of the instructional setting. The mastery must be equivalent to a 3-semester hour course in a university setting (16 weeks/3 hrs.). Each participant must show evidence of mastery which could be held as a portfolio for each course

The courses have been updated with two central concepts, Infusion and Modeling.

Infusion includes the following principles:

- Required skills as excellent general practitioners
- Diversity Issues
- Adult Education Principles
- Technology and Information Skills
- Differentiated Curriculum
- Appropriate Assessment
- Independent Learning and Research Skills

Modeling includes the following principles:

- Facilitative Practitioner
- Reflective Ongoing Self-Assessment
- Intake Interview: pre-assessment including knowledge base, skills, learning styles, interests, socio-cultural preferences
- Formative Evaluation
- Gifted Instructional Strategies: compacting, contracting, creative productivity

The facilitative Practitioner should use the following effective strategies**:**

- Process built into content
- Examination of current issues and key concepts
- Overview of multiple models
- Networking with other instructors
- Infusion of lower level thinking, focus on higher level thinking skills
- Interactive and open-ended • Freedom of Choice: constructivism
- Flexible Structure: complexity, pacing
- Model effective strategies

Built into each of the courses are levels. The use of the pre-assessment is critical to the delivery of these modules. The levels are:

1. Pre-assessment
2. Base level: compacting and built in assessment in every module to facilitate acceleration
3. Curriculum extension/skill development for those who evidence mastery of some of the basic concepts at pre-assessment
4. Creative productivity for those evidencing a higher level of mastery

The outcomes of the modules are:

- Base level: content expertise for all participants
- Higher level: alternative outcomes for participants with some degree of mastery of the topics
- Professional development as an educator of gifted students
- Documentation of skill development (portfolio)
- Open-ended yet accountable evidence of mastery
- Continuity across the five courses

**Instructors/facilitators**

Recommended qualifications for instructors/facilitators of the add-on endorsement classes are:

- a current Florida teaching certificate (or the equivalent) with gifted endorsement (or documented expertise in gifted education)
- a Master's Degree or higher
- a background of successful staff development and/or adult training expertise
- a minimum three years successful teaching experience in gifted education

**Additional materials**

There are three additional documents included with these guidelines. The first is recommended resources and supplementary texts for the five endorsement courses. When an instructor is selected, the person should review these recommended resources for the courses and check web site addresses for accuracy. Also, included is a list of pre-requisites that prospective teachers enrolled in the endorsement courses should possess. The instructor may need to direct participants to other staff development offerings in lieu of trying to teach pre-requisites as part of the endorsement course. The third document outlines specific delivery strategies that should be used for gifted endorsement courses. The instructor should model these strategies throughout the implementation of the courses.