



# AP3:

## ALTERNATIVE PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

A Pathway to Success



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

# ALTERNATIVE PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

As part of its commitment to providing high quality educational services for all learners, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) offers professional development opportunities for new teachers aimed at improving instructional practices and increasing student achievement. The Alternative Professional Preparation Program (AP3) provides a specialized professional development experience to assist teachers that have not graduated from traditional teacher preparation programs as they make the transition to effective classroom practitioners. AP3 is approved by the Florida Department of Education and offered at no cost to current M-DCPS teachers employed full-time in permanent teaching positions. Participation in this year-long program allows non-education majors to meet professional education coursework requirements relating to the Professional Educator Certificate.

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## AP3 ELIGIBILITY

The AP3 program is tailored to assist new and early career teachers (i.e., 0-3 years of teaching experience) that have received a **Statement of Status of Eligibility** indicating that they must complete **12 or more semester hours** of education courses. To be eligible for participation in AP3, applicants must:

- 1 be employed in a full-time, permanent M-DCPS instructional position; *(Please note, teachers with a District Vocational Certificate ARE NOT eligible to participate.)*
- 2 hold or be eligible to hold a three-year Temporary Certificate issued by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Bureau of Teacher Certification; and
- 3 possess a Bachelor's or higher degree and meet the subject area certification requirements in a subject area for which a professional certificate may be issued. Subject area requirements may be met by passing the Florida Teacher Certification Examination Subject Area Test or completing alternate specialization requirements.



## AP3 REQUIRED COMPONENTS

### COURSES

- Seminar 1
  - Available only through face-to-face sessions
  - Can be completed within six weeks
  - Addresses classroom management, instructional strategies, family involvement, assessment and differentiated instruction
- Seminar 2
  - Available only through face-to-face sessions
  - Can be completed within six weeks
  - Addresses human development, learning theories, diversity, critical and creative thinking, student motivation and communication and cooperative learning



- Technology for Teachers of AP3
  - Available only through face-to-face sessions
  - Can be completed within three weeks
  - Develops familiarity with online District resources such as Atomic Learning, Destiny online library, Edusoft, FCAT explorer and Riverdeep.
- Research Based Practices in Reading - Competency 2
  - Available through face-to-face and online sessions
  - Can be completed within 60 hours
  - Addresses principles of scientifically based reading research as the foundation of comprehensive instruction
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Issues and Strategies
  - Available through face-to-face and online sessions
  - Can be completed within 60 hours
  - Addresses instructional strategies and approaches to assist ESOL students in understanding the curriculum and meeting the Sunshine State Standards





- Ethics and Professionalism in M-DCPS
  - Available online only
  - Can be completed within 10 hours
  - Addresses federal laws, state statutes, school board rules, policies and procedures that govern employee conduct

## PORTFOLIO

- Provides evidence of participant's mastery of 12 Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP)
- In addition to participant's PD history and evaluation record, the portfolio includes:
  - Narratives addressing targeted indicators of the FEAP which feature artifacts and student work samples; and
  - Self assessment



## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Passing score on the FTCE Florida Professional Education Test
- Four observations of the participant's classroom during the school year conducted by School Site Support Team in accordance with PACES timeline
- Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) generated with the assistance of school site support team members. IPDP outlines professional learning activities tailored for participants in alignment with student data

All eligible new and early career M-DCPS teachers may apply for admission to the AP3 program by submitting a completed application to Ms. Cindy Caldwell, AP3 coordinator. Applications are available online at <http://prodev.dadeschools.net/AP3/ap3.asp>

### **School Mail**

AP3 Program  
ATTN: Cindy Caldwell  
Work Location 9017

OR

### **U. S. Mail**

Cindy Caldwell  
1500 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 221  
Miami, Florida 33132

For additional information regarding the program please contact Ms. Caldwell at [cincaldwell@dadeschools.net](mailto:cincaldwell@dadeschools.net).

Upon admission to the program, participants will be invited to an orientation that will provide an overview of AP3 program components. Participants will also receive information regarding the portfolio, seminar schedule, FTCE and additional classes.



## ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS - ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

In lieu of participating in the District's AP3 program, non-education majors may complete coursework requirements for the Professional Certificate through one of the following State approved options:

- Local college or universities that offer specialized State approved Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) programs designed for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers through competency based alternative certification programs. For a list of these programs, please visit: <http://www.teachinflorida.com/PreCollegiate/EPI.asp>
- Local colleges or universities that offer State approved Educational Master's degree programs. Individuals interested in obtaining permanent certification may elect to complete coursework requirements by earning a Master's degree through a State approved teacher educator program. For a list of state approved programs, please visit: <http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/teachprep/teachprep.asp>
- American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence Passport to Teaching Certification program. For additional information regarding this program, please visit: [www.abcte.org](http://www.abcte.org) or call 877-669-2228

## AP3 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q-1. What are the requirements in order to complete the AP3 program?

#### A-1. AP3 program requirements include the following:

- *Alternative Professional Preparation Program Seminar 1*
- *Alternative Professional Preparation Program Seminar 2*
- *ESOL Issues and Strategies*
- *Foundations of Research Based Practices Competency 2*
- *Ethics and Professionalism*
- *Technology for Teachers of AP3*
- *Successful passing score on the Florida Teacher Certification Tests (FTCE)*
  - *FTCE Florida Professional Education Test*
- *AP3 Program Portfolio successfully demonstrating master of the 12 Florida Educator Accomplished Practices*
- *School Site Observations and Coaching by Support Team*



**Q-2. I am employed in a 3100 position at a school, can I participate in the AP3 program?**

*A-2. No. The program is solely intended for teachers employed in full-time permanent teaching positions.*

**Q-3. My Statement of Status of Eligibility states that I need 6 semester hours of education coursework? Am I eligible for AP3?**

*A- 3. Although you can choose to participate in the AP3 program, your best option would be to complete courses through a local college or university. The AP3 program is both rigorous and time consuming and thus may not represent an efficient pathway to meet your certification requirements.*

**Q-4. I started a few courses at a local university but I'd much rather complete AP3. Can those courses be applied toward meeting the AP3 requirements?**

*A-4. No. College coursework cannot be applied to waive the AP3 program requirements. Similarly, colleges and universities do not accept coursework completed through AP3 in order to meet the requirements established for their programs.*

**Q-5. How do I order the textbooks for the AP3 program?**

*A-5. Ordering information is available on <http://vig.prenhall.com>. Textbook information and ISBN numbers are provided upon admission to the AP3 program.*

**Q-6. I need to take the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE)? Where do I register? Is there a study guide?**

*A-6. If you are interested in registering for the test or purchasing a study guide for the FTCE, please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/ftce/>*

**Q-7. My temporary certificate expires in 6 months, can I finish the AP3 program in time?**

*A-7. No. The AP3 program is a year-long program. In light of the program intensity and required coursework, prospective participants should consider applying to the program at least 2 years prior to the expiration date of their temporary certificate.*





### Q-8. What requirements for Professional Certification does the AP3 program fulfill?

A-8. Completion of the AP3 Program allows participants to establish mastery of...

- Professional Preparation requirements  
(i.e. – up to 20 semester hours of education coursework)
- Education Competence (demonstration of professional education competence or PEC)
- Practical Teaching Requirement (up to 2 years)

### Q-9. Once I have completed all AP3 requirements, what next?

A-9. Once you have been notified by email that your portfolio has received a passing score and you have met all coursework and test requirements, your next step is to be sure that you have applied for your Professional Certificate. You may apply online at <http://certify.doe.state.fl.us/onlineapp/login.asp>. Our department will notify the District Certification office that you have completed the AP3 program. The Certification office will then submit a CT-132 form to the State. Soon afterwards you will receive your professional certificate by U.S. mail.

**Q-10. Is the AP3 program appropriate for all District instructional employees?**

A-10. The AP3 program is **NOT APPROPRIATE** for the following personnel in light of the fact that participation is limited to **REGULAR** classroom teachers that hold a Florida Temporary Educator's certificate:

- School Social Workers
- Guidance Counselors
- Educational Media Specialists
- School Psychologists
- Vocational teachers with District issued Certificates





## IMPORTANT CONTACTS FOR AP3 TEACHERS

### Beginning Teacher Program

1500 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 221

Miami, Florida 33132

Office: 305-995-7426

Helpline: 305-995-7888

### Center for Professional Learning (formerly Teacher Education Center)

305-887-2002

## CERTIFICATION OFFICERS

### Regional Center I

Jose F. Garcia

Jgarcia6@dadeschools.net

305-995-7075

### Regional Center II

Julio C. Montiel

jmontiel@dadeschools.net

305-995-7712

### Regional Centers III & VII

Rubye Howard

howardrubyel@dadeschools.net

305-995-7203

### Regional Centers IV & VI

Dr. Ketty Kelley

kkelley@dadeschools.net

305-995-3033

### Florida Department of Education (Certification)

1-800-445-6739



## ONLINE RESOURCES

### Beginning Teacher Program website

<http://prodev.dadeschools.net/newteachers/newteachers.asp>

### AP3 website

<http://prodev.dadeschools.net/AP3/ap3.asp>

### M-DCPS Certification Office website

<http://certification.dadeschools.net/>

### Professional Development Menu and Registration System

<http://calendar.dadeschools.net/cal/calendar.nsf>

### Florida Department of Education Certification website

<http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/>

### Office of Professional Development website

<http://prodev.dadeschools.net/>



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BEGINNING TEACHER PROGRAM

Cindy Caldwell



**Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING  
THE AP3 PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT:

Cindy Caldwell  
Instructional Supervisor, AP3 Coordinator  
Beginning Teacher Program at  
[cincaldwell@dadeschools.net](mailto:cincaldwell@dadeschools.net)  
305-995-7421

AP3 WEBSITE:  
<http://prodev.dadeschools.net/AP3/ap3.asp>