

Teachers of Students with Moderate Disabilities....

If you hold an Initial License, PreK-8/9 or Grades 5-12, and you are looking to earn your Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) mandated Professional License, this is your chance to enroll in French River Education Center's DESE approved program—which requires just three graduate courses instead of a Masters degree!

DO YOU NEED TO EARN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE?

You should know that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved just a few agencies throughout the state to offer teachers an **alternative pathway** to professional license...*one that does not require a Masters degree.*

French River Education Center (FREC) is currently approved by the DESE to offer an alternative pathway for *Teachers of Students with Moderate Disabilities, licensed PreK-8/9 and grades 5-12* to earn their professional license----*after just 3 graduate courses!*

The DESE requires those moderate disabilities teachers holding an **Initial License** to earn a **Professional License** in the same field *within five years of teaching with their initial license* or risk losing certification. If you hold an initial license as a *Teachers of Students with Moderate Disabilities, either grades PreK-8/9 or Grades 5-12*, and are looking for a low cost, alternative pathway to professional license---*one that does not require enrolling in a Masters program for your professional license---*yet satisfies the teacher licensure requirements of the Department of Education--- then our program should be of real interest to you. (*NOTE: if you were not an undergraduate education major, but changed careers to become a teacher, subsequently earned a Masters degree and currently hold an initial license, please know that you must still complete a DESE approved professional license program.*)

To earn a professional license through French River's DESE approved program, moderate disabilities teachers need to successfully complete **three (3) graduate courses**---not 10 or 12 courses one would need to take for a Masters. The DESE requires the following: a January '17 math course; a week-long summer special education course in scheduled to begin the last week in June '17; and September '17 literacy course. Following this schedule, you will complete your professional license program requirements by mid-December 2017. Graduate credits for these courses are awarded by **Framingham State University (FSU)**. There are no substitute courses allowed.

The required FSU courses are as follows:

17.750 Including Special Needs Students in the Classroom (3 graduate credits; a 5 day course offered the last week of June at Oxford HS from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) **Tuition: \$995.**

LTRC 907 Literacy Instruction: Connection Theory, Research, and Best Practice (4 graduate credits; 1 day a week, on Tuesdays, at French River Education Center from 4:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in September '17) **Tuition: \$1,400.**

(NOTE: The September literacy course will be taught as a "hybrid" or "blended course", i.e., approximately half your classes will be "face-to-face" classes at French River and half your classes will be on line and asynchronous, i.e., you can access your online instruction and assignment any time of day and any day of the week). This means that you will travel to French River for class for only half the semester. Your instructor will give you a course schedule at the first class in September.)

84.937 Connecting Mathematical Concepts and Teaching (4 graduate credits; 1 day a week, on Tuesdays, at French River Education Center from 4:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m., starting January 2018. *Note: there is no class held during the February or April school vacation weeks.*) Tuition: \$1,400.

Also, should you decide years from now that maybe you would like to enroll in a Framingham State University (FSU) Masters degree program in moderate disabilities after completing our professional license program, perhaps for a salary increase or for an administrative position in special education, please know that both our Literacy Instruction course and Connecting Mathematical Concepts course are also required concentration courses in the FSU Masters program, i.e., you can apply both these courses towards your Masters degree. In summary, you can earn your professional license now to meet the DESE licensure requirements within the five (5) year time line and, by doing so, you will have already completed two of the required courses for a Masters degree in moderate disabilities at FSU should you choose to pursue a Masters at a time convenient to you.

But, again, you do not have to earn a Masters degree unless you want to do so for your own personal satisfaction.

At the conclusion of the program, FREC will endorse you for professional license with the DESE as a *Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities* at your grade level. Once you have taught for three years with an initial license, if you have not done so already, the DESE will issue you a professional license.

To be eligible for this program...you must meet the following requirements:

- ~must already have your initial license as a teacher of students with moderate disabilities, either PreK-8/9 or Grades 5-12;
- ~must be employed as a moderate disabilities teacher working in the role of your initial license; and
- ~must have completed your mentoring year---or will complete your mentoring year by June 2017.

Compare time and cost...If you are still paying for your undergraduate degree, a Masters now could be difficult financially. By comparison, the FREC professional licensure program in moderate disabilities requires just three (3) graduate courses. Tuition and related expenses, based on current costs, should total approximately \$3,900. (*NOTE: FSU sets tuition and it could change.*) Compare this to having to take 10-12 graduate courses at a cost of \$14,000 - \$16,000—plus on campus program fees—for a Masters degree. *You save time and money with our approved professional licensure program in moderate disabilities*

Interested? Want to learn more? Ready to enroll? If you would like to learn more about how you can earn your professional license in moderate disabilities, PreK-8 or grades 5-12, after just three (3) FSU graduate courses, or you are ready to enroll, call Mike Fields, Director, at 508-987-0219, ext. 101, (mfields@frec.org), or complete and return the form below. We will contact you once we receive this form.

NOTE: We are enrolling NOW for June 2017. Don't delay as program space fills quickly!

PLEASE BE ADVISED: *The moderate disabilities, 5-12 program will no longer be offered after August 1, 2017. To complete the program by mid-May 2018, you must be enrolled for the June 2017 week-long graduate course.*

Teachers of Students with Moderate Disabilities, PreK-8 and Grades 5-12

Pre-Registration Form

June 2017

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Employed as a moderate disabilities teacher in the following School District/School: _____

School and Grade Level: _____

My initial license in moderate disabilities is for the following grade levels (check one):

_____ Prek-8

_____ Grades 5-12

(NOTE: You must pursue your professional license at the same level that you have your initial license)

As for my mentoring (induction) year, I _____ completed it already _____ I am doing it now

Kindly complete and fax to 508-987-1396, attention Mike Fields

OR

Email to: mfields@frec.org