



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton  
State Superintendent  
of Education

January 13, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Alabama Educators  
Providers of Professional Study

**FROM:** Joseph B. Morton  
State Superintendent of Education

**RE:** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Related to Instructional Leader Certification, Professional Study, and Professional Learning Units (PLUs)

The State Department of Education (SDE) and the Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) provided training to over 4,200 Alabama educators in 2007-2008 on the Alabama Standards for Instructional Leaders, Alabama Standards for Professional Development, and the Alabama Quality Teaching Standards. During those trainings, educators posed numerous questions related to the standards, professional study, instructional leader certification, and the new Professional Learning Unit (PLU). The attached FAQ Document is a compilation of those questions. The responses to questions are compiled from ACLD members/advisors and selected sections/units within the SDE.

During 2009 Alabama will approve professional study opportunities that will earn PLU status. Individuals holding a valid Alabama certificate in one or more of the following areas will be required to earn PLUs:

- Instructional Leader
- Practicing Instructional Leader
- Educational Administration
- Superintendent/Principal
- Superintendent
- Principal (any grade level)
- Supervisor (any subject and/or grade level)
- Vocational Administrator
- Vocational Supervisor
- Administrator of Career and Technical Education

The term "instructional leader certification" includes the above listed certificates.

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Alabama Educators  
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Page 2  
January 13, 2009

The responses provided in this FAQ Document, marked Draft January 13, 2009, are subject to change as the new instructional leader certification and approved professional study process is refined.

For information regarding instructional leadership certification, contact Ms. Martha White, Teacher Education and Certification, at 334-242-9977 or [marthaw@alsde.edu](mailto:marthaw@alsde.edu). For information regarding ACLD approved professional study, contact Ms. Chris Wilson, Leadership and Evaluation, at 334-353-8646 or [cwilson@alsde.edu](mailto:cwilson@alsde.edu).

JBM/CEW/NT

Attachment

cc: Dr. Thomas R. Bice  
Dr. Eddie R. Johnson  
Mr. Feagin Johnson, Jr.  
Mr. Warren Craig Pouncey  
Dr. Jayne A. Meyer  
Mr. John S. Bell