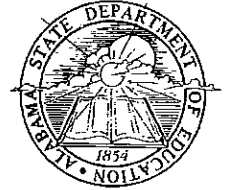




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Joseph B. Morton
 State Superintendent
 of Education

September 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans of Education

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

RE: Professional Learning Units for Education Specialist and Doctoral Courses

Professional Learning Units (PLUs) are being phased in to replace Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for renewing Instructional Leadership Certificates (Instructional Leader, Practicing Instructional Leader, Educational Administrator, Superintendent, Principal, Supervisor, Superintendent-Principal, and Career and Technical Administrator.) A PLU is a content-driven, long-term unit of professional study for instructional leaders that fully addresses all knowledge and ability indicators under at least one of the Alabama Standards for Instructional Leaders. Professional study that constitutes a PLU requires multiple professional development experiences over time and will always be aligned with the Alabama Standards for Professional Development. The PLU must include comprehensive coverage and evaluation of effectiveness in the school setting.

Courses currently being offered at Alabama institutions in Class AA educational administrator certification programs and doctoral programs may earn one PLU for every three semester hours completed up to five PLUs or 15 semester hours. The Governor's Congress on School Leadership is currently working to develop new program standards for Class AA state-approved programs in instructional leadership. When these standards are completed, all of the newly approved Class AA programs will need to align with the new standards. PLU status for Class AA courses will then be granted only to those courses in the Class AA instructional leadership state-approved programs.

Institutions wanting to grant PLU status for Class AA and/or Doctoral Courses in Education Leadership will need to submit a list of courses to the State Department of Education, Teacher Certification Section. Only courses in the leadership core will be granted PLU status. Please submit lists to Dr. Jayne Meyer no later than October 1, 2009. If you have questions about courses, please contact Dr. Meyer at jmeyer@alsde.edu. Questions about PLUs should be addressed to Mr. John Bell at jbelle@alsde.edu.

JBM/JSB

cc Dr. Thomas R. Bice
 Dr. Eddie R. Johnson
 Mr. Feagin Johnson, Jr.
 Dr. Jayne Meyer
 Mr. John Bell

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