



cc: Gretchen
Almeida

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Programs for Students with Disabilities
Directors of Personnel
School Principals

FROM: Marlene Metts, Director
Office of Exceptional Children

DATE: August 16, 2010

RE: Project CREATE—Year 8 | 2010–11

I am pleased to announce that Year 8 of Project CREATE will commence with the upcoming Fall semester of the 2010–11 school year. CREATE (Centers for the Re-Education and Advancement of Teachers in Special Education) exists for the purpose of growing a highly qualified special education teacher force in South Carolina. By underwriting course tuition and textbook costs, CREATE assists qualified individuals in obtaining add-on, alternative, or initial certification (bachelor's or MAT degree) in special education. Although our **top priority** is helping currently-employed special education teachers on a **RAC** (restricted alternative certificate) and **PACE**—Emotional Disabilities teachers upgrade to full certification, CREATE will also assist other full-time public school employees who want to pursue a career change into special education teaching, including teacher assistants, general education teachers, and other non-instructional staff, contingent upon meeting qualification requirements.

Be reminded that CREATE is not a vehicle for re-certification, adding another area of special education licensure for personal preference, or for continuing professional development. Additionally, be aware that CREATE operates on a first-come, first-served basis, while ensuring representation of individuals from all school districts in the State. Please direct interested individuals to the official CREATE Web site, <http://www.sccreate.org>, for information about the project, including an online application, qualifications, course details, and more. Feel free to copy, post and distribute the enclosed flyer to interested candidates.

We are requesting that local school districts support this endeavor by paying the Praxis II exam costs for individuals in their districts who complete special education certification through CREATE. These fees would be an allowable expenditure under the Personnel Development Grant administered by our Office.

We are honored to partner with the eleven colleges and universities in the CREATE consortium and with all local school districts in this critically important endeavor. Deadlines for registering qualified CREATE individuals for Fall 2010 certification courses are posted at the Web site. Thank you in advance for your help in referring promising candidates to Project CREATE.

MM/mab
Enclosures

South Carolina Centers for the Re-Education and Advancement of Teachers in Special Education
www.sccreate.org

Joe P. Sutton, PhD, Project Director

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

Tuition and textbook scholarships for courses leading to add-on, alternative, and initial certification in Special Education are available for the Fall 2010 semester.

Currently-employed special education teachers holding a restricted alternative certificate (RAC) and PACE-ED teachers will receive top priority. All other full-time public school employees, including non-instructional staff, are also eligible.

For qualification requirements, online application, and other information, visit the CREATE website:

<http://www.sccreate.org>

Course scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as funds allow while ensuring representation from all school districts in the State.