

Subject: Special Instructors and Teaching Certificates

Source: Pam Thomas, Coordinator, First Steps program

Intended Audience: First Steps providers

Date: December 4, 2012

First Steps Special Instructors are NOT required to have teacher certification in order to enroll or deliver services to First Steps families. If a provider enrolls with First Steps with teacher certification and is NOT at least a half-time employee of a school district or approved private agency, then there is NOT an ability to renew, extend, or upgrade the teaching certificate.

Special Instructors with a Missouri valid professional teaching certificate who are working in First Steps and are NOT classified as at least half-time employees of a school district or approved private agency can get their certificates *reactivated* at the current status by following the process listed under Active/Inactive Certificate-item #1 on reactivating a teacher certificate by taking a college course at:
<http://dese.mo.gov/eq/cert/ReactivateCertificate.html>

Special Instructors with a Missouri valid professional teaching certificate who are working in First Steps and ARE classified as at least half-time employee by an employing school district can reactivate a teaching certificate as described in item #2 on reactivating a teacher certificate by documenting professional development.

If you are unaware of your employee status with your school district, please contact the Human Resources office at your school district.

For more information about teacher certification, call the Office of Educator Quality – Educator Certification at: (573) 751-0051.