

AL Recertification Package (50 Hours)



This online PD course package contains classes to help teachers in Alabama address the required clock hours to renew a teaching certificate.

The AL Recertification Package includes 10 self-study courses (5 hours each) for a total of 50 hours of professional development.

- Classroom Collaboration
- Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors
- Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges
- Cultural Competency and Responsive Teaching
- English Language Learners in the Classroom
- Formative Assessment
- Internet Safety in a Connected World
- Research-based Instructional Strategies
- Transformative Classroom Management
- Virtual Field Trips

Classroom Collaboration



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Implement collaborative learning in classrooms and develop successful learners. This framework enables teachers to recognize characteristics of collaborative classrooms, be aware of student and teacher roles, and practice group activities as an essential part of the classroom.

Teachers are introduced to school-wide policy reforms in place today that promote collaboration and group activities. Teachers are also provided with ideas and strategies to accommodate learners, including students with special needs. The practical examples, real-life experiences, and templates in this online course provide teachers a structure to use in their own classrooms.



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Classroom Collaboration

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- What is collaborative learning and why should students collaborate?
- Collaboration vs. Traditional Approach
- Benefits and Importance of collaborative learning
- Overview on effective collaboration in the classroom
- Alignment of collaboration to State Standards
- The Collaborative Learning Model

LESSON 2: Collaborative Tools and Strategies

- Characteristics of a collaborative teacher
- Grouping strategies and designing grouping assignments
- Collaborative learning techniques
- Web tools and projects for collaboration
- Interactions and activities in a collaborative classroom
- Around the world collaboration
- Resources for collaboration

LESSON 3: The Collaborative Classroom

- Characteristics of a collaborative classroom
- Student and teacher roles in a collaborative classroom
- Preparing for collaborative activities
- Examples of classroom collaboration and collaborative learning spaces
- Managing today's classroom

LESSON 4: Assessment, Accommodations, and Challenges

- Collaborative assessment
- Approaches to collaborative assessment
- Challenges in a collaborative classroom
- Conflict resolution
- School-wide policies to promote collaboration



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Resources & Tools for
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Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

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Students from all backgrounds, temperaments, and abilities should have access to a classroom ambience that is conducive to their learning. Positive Behavior Management helps educators transform challenging behavior, systemically and individually, to create such an environment.

Learn evidence-based Positive Behavior Intervention Solutions (PBIS) practices to identify and eliminate triggers in the classroom, encourage positive behaviors, and give students individualized care and support.

This proactive PBIS approach, with three tiers of interventions, can strengthen students' relationships, improve their communication skill, and circumvent conflict.



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Classroom Management for Positive Behaviors

Course Outline

LESSON 1: A Positive Classroom Climate

- What is PBIS and why teach positive behaviors?
- Behavior management and social skills
- Instructional and environmental management
- Parent support and the three-tier framework

LESSON 2: Primary Prevention

- What is primary prevention?
- Guidelines
- Behavior management strategies
- Basic teaching approach

LESSON 3: Secondary Prevention

- Eligibility
- Features
- Identifying students
- Secondary interventions

LESSON 4: Tertiary Prevention

- Selection of students
- Implementation strategies
- Parental involvement



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Resources & Tools for
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Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

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The U.S. Department of Education and others indicate that weak cognitive skills are the source of over 80% of learning problems.

Students approach each task with varying learning tools, called cognitive skills, and these skills determine the quality, speed, and ease with which individuals learn and perform.

This course provides methods for detecting students with weak cognitive skills and tools to strengthen those skills. Teachers will receive understanding, as well as ways to apply development techniques in the classroom. This fun and interactive course includes information about new brain research and how it can impact today's classrooms.



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Quiz

Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Unlocking your students' complete learning potential
- The prevalence of learning challenges and the need for effective special education
- The crucial role of teachers and schools in maximizing educational impact
- The importance of cognitive skills for successful living

LESSON 2: Testing

- How tests are administered and interpreted
- The two main types of tests and their different goals
- The role of IQ scores and phonemic awareness
- Common contemporary approaches to diagnosed learning issues and the significance of cognitive skills in making a lasting impact on students' learning

LESSON 3: Cognitive Skills

- Understanding the nature of student learning and the role cognitive skills play in it
- Identifying and accurately assessing cognitive weaknesses
- The features and significance of specific cognitive skills
- The inter-connected nature of skills and specific abilities closely associated with cognitive growth

LESSON 4: The Brain

- Contemporary research on the functioning of the brain
- The role and nature of attention and memory in the learning process
- Understanding dyslexia and effective approaches to it
- The significance of parental involvement and the need for practice

LESSON 5: Effective Training

- The role of the brain in laying essential foundations for learning
- Specific methods to build and strengthen cognitive skills
- The need for effective cognitive training to be non-academic in nature



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Cognitive Skills - Understanding Learning Challenges

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Resources & Tools for
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Cultural Competency and Responsive Teaching



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, and Learning Environments.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, and Diverse Learners.

Teachers deepen their understanding of their own frames of reference, potential bias, and impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families, and school communities.

This course demonstrates responsive teaching in the classroom by helping teachers consider, connect with, and build competence in meeting the many learning needs of all students while addressing culturally diverse classrooms that are sensitive and equitable to learners across languages, genders, religions, cultural backgrounds, and special needs.



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Cultural Competency and Responsive Teaching

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Cultural Competency

- Defining culture and cultural competency
- Cultural beliefs and values
- Impact of culture on behavior

LESSON 2: Bias

- Definition, types, and identification of bias
- Assumptions, perspectives, and self-perceptions

LESSON 3: Culturally Responsive Classrooms

- Impact of culture on teaching and learning
- Brain roles in learning
- Teaching styles and student impact
- Building rapport with students

LESSON 4: Culturally Responsive Teaching

- Diversity in the classroom
- Understanding diversity: origin, religion, gender, language, special needs, and mental health
- Cohesive classrooms and school communities
- Collaborating with families

Designed to meet state requirements for cultural competency and responsiveness training. Including but not limited to all of the following topics: racial, cultural, and socioeconomic groups; American Indian and Alaskan native students; religion; systemic racism; gender identity, including transgender students; sexual orientation; language diversity; and individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns while deepening teachers' understanding of their own frames of reference, the potential bias in these frames, and their impact on expectations for and relationships with students, students' families, and the school communities.



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English Language Learners in the Classroom



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to all of the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Facilitate optimal learning in the classroom by helping English Language Learners feel validated. This course includes a range of strategies and activities that lead to interactions which benefit the four language skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model is presented along with ways to apply this model when teaching English Language Learners. The importance of working collaboratively and ensuring the involvement of parents to enhance learning is emphasized with corresponding strategies. Through a range of research-based findings, teachers are equipped to engage students in “higher order thinking skills” and design a sufficiently challenging curriculum.



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English Language Learners in the Classroom

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Welcoming English Language Learners

- Create an environment of acceptance
- Understand the backgrounds of English Language Learners
- Establishing an open channel of communication with parents

LESSON 2: Accommodating a New Culture

- Identify the educational needs of English Language Learners
- Avoiding assumptions
- Conversational and cross-cultural skills
- Comparing cultures and value systems

LESSON 3: Collaboration and Connection

- Approaches for mainstream teachers to effectively serve English Language Learners
- The Sheltered Instruction (SI) model
- Four language skill areas

LESSON 4: Curriculum and Lessons

- Engaging students in “higher order thinking skills” (HOTS)
- Methods of simplification and expansion



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Resources & Tools for
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Formative Assessment



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

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Formative assessments allow teachers to respond to a student's needs quickly, and, even more importantly, allows the student to shape instruction. Effective formative assessments result in instruction that meets the needs of each student.

In this innovative online course, teachers learn about and implement formative assessments. Discover and demonstrate for yourself, your students, and your community what happens when students are truly learning.



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Quiz

Formative Assessment

Course Outline

LESSON 1: The Essentials

- Concepts behind and purpose of formative assessment
- Practical strategies that may be used to implement formative assessment
- Commonly used formative assessments, including teacher observation, questioning, rubrics, essays, and peer assessment
- Benefits of each strategy and how they can be used effectively

LESSON 2: Nuts and Bolts

- The process of formative assessment
- Concepts behind goal mastery
- The importance of feedback, reports, visual depiction, and celebration in formative assessment
- Designing lesson plans that integrate formative assessment

LESSON 3: Making Connections

- The role of assessment in standards-based education
- Formative and summative assessments, and the difference between the two



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Internet Safety in a Connected World



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learning Environments and Planning for Instruction.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Facilitate Learning and Teachers Analyze and Reflect.

Technology has become an integral part of our lives, but it also presents risks - especially for children.

In this course, teachers learn about the different kinds of online threats and how they can protect themselves and their students. The course includes:

- Social media
- Texting
- Video games
- Cyberbullying
- Online predators
- Tips & tools for protecting children online
- And more....



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Quiz

Internet Safety in a Connected World

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Connecting on the Internet

- Social media
- Features and red flags of social media
- Posting and viewing photographs and videos safely
- Smart watches

LESSON 2: The Internet in Daily Life

- Diverse means of electronic communication
- Gaming and virtual worlds
- E-commerce and digital footprints
- Existing dangers
- Interactive scenarios:
- Handling peer pressure and secure chatting options

LESSON 3: Downloading from the Internet

- Shielding unauthorized copying and piracy
- Sending out files
- Plagiarism
- Software that harms computers and guidelines to prevent this

LESSON 4: Staying Safe on the Internet

- Online predators and their behaviors – grooming and gifting
- Cyberbullying: forms and effects
- Monitoring software and parental controls with usage agreements
- Reporting online crimes, gathering evidence, and calling for help



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Resources & Tools for
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Internet Safety in a Connected World

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Resources & Tools for
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Research-based Instructional Strategies



Standards:

This course aligns to all of the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Assessment, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

Educators must continually review, reflect, and work on their instructional skills. This helps students improve in academic achievement, develop an attitude of learning, and acquire skills.

This course provides teachers with research-based approaches and practical strategies to enhance the effectiveness of teacher led instruction and encourage active student involvement in learning.

Teachers will examine their own views and explore common educational myths. With examples, templates, and rubrics, teachers will be able to incorporate new strategies across the curriculum.



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Research-based Instructional Strategies

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- The importance of education and a review of educational achievement statistics
- The benefits of incorporating research proven instructional strategies in the classroom
- Myths related to learning and teaching and the truth revealed through research

LESSON 2: Teacher-focused Approaches and Strategies

- Developing reflective practice
- The learning process
- A look at research-based student learning and achievement strategies
- Classroom application of strategies and approaches

LESSON 3: Active Learning

- The importance of active student participation and engagement
- Student engagement and active learning
- Research-based strategies
- Activities and projects

LESSON 4: Research-Based Strategies for Literacy and Math

- The importance of literacy
- The elements required to develop good reading skills
- Research-based strategies on improving students' reading skills
- The importance of developing one's writing skills
- Research-based strategies on improving students' writing skills and classroom applications of the same
- The importance of math in real life situations and the need for developing one's math skills



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Resources & Tools for
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Transformative Classroom Management



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Environments, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

It also aligns to the McRel Teacher Evaluation Standards including Teacher Leadership, Diverse Learners, Teachers Know Content and Teachers Facilitate Learning.

All students are unique and group dynamics, cultural backgrounds, and experiences vary — sometimes dramatically. But for the most part, sound ideas get positive results and unsound ideas get mixed results at best.

Not all ideas sold in the marketplace of classroom management strategies lead to desirable results. In fact, many of the most popular ideas result in more harm than good.

This course is a synthesis of what's effective in the area of classroom management. It builds on extensive time, real experiences of teachers, observations of hundreds of classrooms, research, and the best ideas put into successful practice.



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Quiz

Transformative Classroom Management

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Classroom Management

- Identifying common attributes in transformative classrooms that instill essential skills for student success
- Examining attitudes and pedagogical choices that promote effective classroom management
- Analyzing popular but ineffective strategies that promote classroom dysfunction

LESSON 2: Classroom Expectations

- The importance of laying out clear and shared expectations in the classroom
- Examining intentional classroom management strategies to identify the nature and outcomes of each
- The need for consistent implementation and positive expectations for long-term benefits

LESSON 3: Technical Management

- The need for teachers to be experts at technical classroom management strategies
- Identifying the essential principles behind a focused vision and classroom culture
- Understanding the nature of student attention and strategies to secure it

LESSON 4: Student Motivation

- The distinctions between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and the need to develop the former
- Strategies to develop each type of motivation and their limitations
- The nature and role of external rewards like grades and incentives
- The basic needs fulfilled by internal rewards and ways to reinforce them



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Resources & Tools for
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Virtual Field Trips



Standards:

This course aligns to the INTASC Standards including Learner Development, Learning Differences, Learning Environments, Content Knowledge, Application of Content, Planning for Instruction and Instructional Strategies.

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Field trips help students make connections between classroom learning and the world. However, they aren't always practical due to budget constraints, safety concerns, or learning needs.

Virtual field trips are an effective alternative to traditional field trips because of accessibility, ease, and interactivity. They are cost-effective, safe to use, and break down geographical and learning barriers. Virtual field trips work well for all types of classrooms.

In this course, teachers discover innumerable tips and resources to plan, create, and customize virtual trips and cater to their students' needs. Take classroom learning beyond the confines of the classroom.



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Quiz

Virtual Field Trips

Course Outline

LESSON 1: Introduction

- Characteristics
- Opportunities
- Applicability

LESSON 2: Virtual Field Trip Resources

- Pre-designed virtual field trips
- Resources to design virtual field trips
- Maximizing learning

LESSON 3: Planning a Virtual Field Trip

- Considerations
- Types of virtual field trips

LESSON 4: Conducting a Virtual Field Trip

- Setting the stage and goal
- Student participation and post-virtual field trip follow-up
- Drawing connections and real-world implications
- Reporting and evaluating the virtual field trip



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