

**TEACHERS.....DO YOU NEED TO EARN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE?**

**(PLEASE BE ADVISED.....State Senate Docket #267, filed on January 3, 2009, is a bill before the legislature sponsored by Senator Robert O'Leary titled "An Act to Reform Educator Licensure in the Commonwealth". If approved, the bill would go into effect January 1, 2011. Under this bill, a professional license would then require either a "...Masters degree or attained certification by the national board of professional teaching standards", i.e., either a Masters to earn professional license or national board certification to earn your professional license.**

**Getting started in a program negates any legislative changes as enrollees would be grandfathered. So, if you have thought about enrolling in a program to earn your professional license, you should seriously consider doing it now. )**

***French River is accepting enrollments now for these 5 DOE approved Professional License Programs:***

- ~Early Childhood Teachers, PreK-2
- ~Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities (PreK-8 & 5-12)
- ~Elementary Education Teachers, Grades 1-6
- ~Math Teachers, Grades 5-8
- ~General Science, Grades 5-8

**FREC is now enrolling teachers** in the aforementioned MA Dept. of Education approved district- based Professional License programs. We have openings in our Tuesday and Thursday cohort groups which start in September 2010 with classes held one day a week at Oxford High School, Oxford, MA. Registrations are being accepted NOW on a “**first come, first serve**” basis.

**Start in September 2010 with the DOE required literacy course** during the fall semester, take the required math course in January 2011 and complete your program requirements for professional licensure by mid-May 2011. Just two graduate courses (*three courses for moderate disabilities and general science candidates offered during the summer '10 semester*) needed to complete your professional license requirements. The DOE has additional requirements for all teachers which must be met before awarding professional licensure. The actual professional license cannot be awarded to any teacher until he or she completes a DOE approved program—like ours—and completes 3 years of teaching in the role of their initial license. If you have been teaching for less than 3 years, **you can still enroll in our program**, complete the course requirements now, and receive your professional license in the mail as soon as you finish your 3<sup>rd</sup> year of teaching.

**The Department of Education** requires those teachers holding an Initial License to earn a Professional License in the same field *within five years of hire*. If you hold an initial license in any one of the above referenced fields and are looking for a low cost, alternative pathway to professional license---**one that does not require enrolling in a Masters program**---yet satisfies the teacher licensure requirements of the Department of Education--- then this program may be of interest to you.

**What does this mean for you?** Completing this program means that you don't have to enroll in or complete a Masters program to earn Professional Licensure---*unless you want to do so*. When you compare time and cost, most teachers will pay less than \$2,300 (*moderate disabilities and general science teachers will pay less than \$3,300*) to earn their professional license through French River. ***A Masters degree might be 10-12 graduate courses and could cost as much as \$14,000 - \$16,000.***

**Interested? Want to learn more? Ready to enroll?** If you would like to learn more about how you can earn Professional Licensure, in most cases, after just 2 FSC graduate courses, or call Mike Fields, Director, at 508-987-0219, ext. 101, ([mfields@frec.org](mailto:mfields@frec.org)), or Maddy Dudley at ext. 104 ([mdudley@frec.org](mailto:mdudley@frec.org)) or complete and return the form below.

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***FREC Professional Licensure Program*** ***Oxford High School, September 2010***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City/Town) (Zip)

**Employed as a teacher by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **My teaching Assignment is:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of School District)

**Soc. Sec. #:** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ **Best email address to contact me:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My initial license is in:** \_\_\_\_\_ **I prefer (check one):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tuesdays** \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursdays**  
(Field and Grade Level)