

# RESOLUTION

## On Teacher Certification in the United States

### Background

The teaching of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and presenting is a major emphasis of the elementary school and a basis for learning in all other content subjects taught in middle school and high school. The International Reading Association has established 2010 Standards for Reading Professionals for the professional preparation of reading personnel at all levels and in various roles.

Nevertheless, school districts throughout the United States are hiring teachers on emergency certificates, and states are developing alternative routes to certification that do not ensure that teachers have received sufficient knowledge and skill to provide effective reading instruction.

Although such practices may appear to solve the problem of teacher shortage in the short run, such practices jeopardize effective teaching and learning of reading in the long run. Research supports that better prepared teachers in reading produce higher student reading achievement. Please see: Strickland, D.S. & Snow, C. (2002). *Preparing our teachers: Opportunities for better reading instruction*. Washington, DC: John Henry Press.

### Resolution

Be it therefore Resolved, that all personnel responsible for teaching reading at the elementary, middle and secondary levels (PreK–12) be appropriately prepared, qualified, and licensed; and that IRA urges local, state, and national policy makers, school board officials, state offices of teacher licensure, accrediting agencies, and teacher education institutions to adhere to the IRA 2010 Standards for Reading Professionals for preparing appropriately qualified and licensed reading teachers.

*Note: This resolution replaces the 1988 Resolution on Teacher Certification.*

(Adopted May 2000; Revised May 2011)