

A GUIDE TO

The Further Education (Principals' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2007

2007 No. 1864

Introduction

1. This guide should be read in conjunction with the Further Education (Principals' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2007 (see www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20071864.htm). Its purpose is to provide further information and to support implementation of the Regulations in further education institutions (FEIs).

2. Further detailed information on the Principals' Qualifying Programme (PQP) is available from the Centre of Excellence in Leadership (CEL) (see www.centreforexcellence.org.uk).

Background

3. Weaknesses in FE leadership were identified by Ofsted in its inspections and by Sir Andrew Foster in his 2005 independent review of FE (*Realising the Potential - A review of the future role of further education colleges*). There is also a considerable leadership challenge because of the vital role FE has in delivering key policy and public sector reforms.

4. The Government announced its intention to introduce new regulations as part of the policy to professionalise the FE workforce by setting standards for leaders. The FE White Paper *Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances 2006*, stated that the Department would introduce a qualification which all newly appointed principals of FEIs will be required to obtain.

5. These Regulations will create a professionally qualified cadre of FE principals, actively develop new principals' potential and help middle managers aspire to top leadership roles, see that this is worth striving for, and that there is professional development to support them. The qualification will also help create a professional image for attracting people into FE leadership from the business and other public sectors. Similarly, the PQP will give governing bodies greater confidence when appointing new principals, as it will provide professional training for the role of principal and will enable the person appointed to carry out the role more effectively. Additionally, it will help candidates from more diverse backgrounds to aspire to and perform in a principal's role.

The Regulations

6. The Regulations come into force on 1 September 2007 and apply to all newly appointed principals of FEIs, including general and specialist colleges and sixth form colleges (ie, those designated as further education institutions under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992).

7. The Regulations require all newly appointed principals of FEIs to hold or be working towards the Principals' Qualification. The Principals' Qualification will be awarded by CEL on successful completion of the PQP. The programme itself will be provided by CEL and approved by the Secretary of State.

8. The Regulations do not apply to serving principals in post prior to 1 September 2007. However, the PQP has been designed to develop the leadership skills of both newly appointed and serving principals. It is based on a thorough diagnostic process, accreditation of prior functional knowledge, experiential learning, and personalised learning programme to address identified development needs. Given that serving principals will already have relevant experience and proven expertise, they may wish to undertake the PQP as part of their continuing professional development.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Principals' Qualifying Programme

9. For further information about the PQP, fees and subsidies visit CEL's website www.centreforexcellence.org.uk or contact them on 0870 060 3278.

Funding

10. For newly appointed principals of FEIs, from September 2007, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will subsidise the costs of the PQP.

Related Regulations

11. The Further Education (Principals' Qualifications) Regulations are one of three separate but related sets of Regulations designed to deliver the Government's commitment to professionalising the FE workforce. The other two sets of Regulations, both of which are scheduled to come into force at the same time as the Principals' Qualifications on 1 September 2007, are:

- **The Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007:** These include revised teaching qualifications for new teachers and the introduction of professional statuses for all teachers (see www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20072264.htm). For further information about these Regulations visit the Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) website www.lluk.org/ittreforms or contact their Information and Advice Service on 020 7936 5798 or advice@lluk.org.

- **The Further Education Teachers' Continuing Professional Development and Registration (England) Regulations 2007:** These set out requirements for minimum amounts of annual CPD and professional registration with the Institute for Learning (IfL) (see www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20072116.htm). For more information visit the IfL website www.ifl.ac.uk or contact IfL on 0870 757 7894 or enquiries@ifl.ac.uk.