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Certification By and For Reading Specialists

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Editorial Comment

CERTIFICATION BY AND FOR READING SPECIALISTS

A new breed of educators is in the process of developing. Reading teachers, therapists, and clinicians are preparing themselves for the gigantic task of improving the reading skills of elementary, high school, and college students in our country. Many believe that this goal can be accomplished best by professional organizations and reading guilds with power to select their membership and outline prerequisite training. The American Medical Association, with a unity of purpose set forth by the Hippocratic Oath, is an excellent example of what can be accomplished.

The Reading Guild must protect not only the individual under remediation but the organization as well. It is equally important to determine whom the organization includes and whom the organization excludes. Competency, professionalism, and loyalty demand rigorous standards essential to maintaining a position of strength and authority among the professions. The reading organization or guild must have control over certification and accreditation. Various professional organizations and labor unions who exercise this control in other areas have demonstrated the strength and power which can be exercised in our society.

Control over certification of reading teachers, therapists, and clinicians will involve selection and preparation of students for the profession. Courses for certification and apprenticeship programs must be "farmed out" to only accredited institutions of higher learning who have been approved as suitable centers for professional training. Competency and leadership in the field of reading must be maintained by a dynamic organization of adequately prepared individuals.

Homer L. J. Carter
Editor