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Commissioner of Education



DATE: February 1, 2008

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Eric J. Smith

SUBJECT: Military Enrollment Preference in Magnet Schools

Please let this memo serve as a reminder to Superintendents of Section 1003.05(3), Florida Statutes, which gives priority to military dependents. In order to accommodate the mobility of these families and particularly the students, this statute provides enrollment preference into specific special academic programs including magnet schools:

Assistance to transitioning students from military families
*(3) Dependent children of active duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools shall be given first preference for admission to such program even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned. . . For purposes of this subsection, special academic programs include **magnet schools**, advanced studies programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and International Baccalaureate.*

During the 2006 Legislative Session, charter schools were removed from the list of special academic programs, thereby removing the military enrollment preference for charter schools. This preference however still remains active for admission to magnet schools. Please be mindful of this option as you assist transitioning military students.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jean Miller, in the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice at (850) 245-0502, for further information.