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October 23, 2003

MEMORANDUM #03-55

TO: Exceptional Student Education Directors

FROM: Shan Goff

SUBJECT: **Proposed Educational Interpreter Standards**

Historically, the Department of Education (DOE), Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services has supported the development and implementation of standards for educational interpreters. In August 2001, the Department developed the Proposed Standards for Educational Interpreters. The proposed standards are attached and may be viewed at the following website: <http://www.firn.edu/doe/bin00014/pdf/interp-1.pdf>.

The Department continues to pursue amendments to section 1012.53, Florida Statutes, to provide authority for DOE to promulgate rules to require that instructional staff who provide educational interpreting services for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing demonstrate competencies identified by the Department. Until such time that the statute is amended, we continue to encourage school districts to utilize the draft standards when revising or developing policy and procedures related to educational interpreters, including criteria for hiring and promotion.

Please share this information with appropriate staff. If you have additional questions regarding the standards, please contact Shannon C. Simon, Director, Educational Interpreters Project, by telephone at 866-697-7150 or by electronic mail at ssimon@unf.edu. In addition, you may also contact the following Department staff: Dawn Saunders, Program Specialist, by telephone at 850-245-0478 or by electronic mail at Dawn.Saunders@fldoe.org; or Lezlie Cline, Program Specialist, by telephone at 850-245-0478 or by electronic mail at Lezlie.Cline@fldoe.org.

SG/lcr

Attachment

cc: Coordinators for Deaf/Hard of Hearing
District Personnel Directors
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Managers
State Advisory Committee

SHAN GOFF
Chief

Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services