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MEMORANDUM

To: District School Superintendents

From: Jim Warford

Date: January 15, 2004

Subject: **REVISIONS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MINORS TO MAINTAIN THEIR DRIVING PRIVILEGE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PAPER**

The attached Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) provides information regarding changes to previously published policies for implementing the attendance-related driver license requirements, and replaces the previous Technical Assistance Paper FY 2003-2, dated August 2002.

As requested by section 1003.27, Florida Statutes, the superintendent must report to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) the names, birth dates, gender, and social security numbers of students between the ages of 14 and 18 who accumulate 15 unexcused absences in a period of 90 calendar days, and who otherwise fail to satisfy the

relevant attendance requirements of section 322.091, Florida Statutes. The legislation further provides that those students who fail to satisfy attendance requirements will be ineligible for driving privilege.

Staff from the Department of Education and DHSMV continue to collaborate in the implementation of this program. If you have questions or need additional information regarding reporting or reinstatement procedures, please contact Mr. Donald Klein at (850) 488-3288. If you have questions regarding the implementation of this program, please contact Rich Downs in our office.

It has been determined that districts reporting students to DHSMV as soon as they withdraw from school or accumulate 15 unexcused absences in 90 calendar days are more successful at retrieving dropouts and improving school attendance. These districts have also experienced decreased dropout rates and improved graduation rates. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the implementation of this program.

JW:rdb

Attachment

cc: District Student Service Directors
School Social Work/Attendance Supervisors
Dropout Prevention Coordinators
School District MIS Contacts
School District Data Processing Directors
Guidance Supervisors