

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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CONTACT PERSON

Name: Charlene Waltz

Phone: (850) 245-9244

Suncom: 205-9244

COEFO: #04-22

January 20, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Raymond Monteleone

SUBJECT: Participation in the 2003-2004 District Effort Recognition Program

District Effort Recognition Program grants for 2003-2004, as funded through the General Appropriations Act, Chapter 2003-397, Laws of Florida, are reflected in the attached report. The funds were allocated pursuant to Section 1013.736, Florida Statutes and will be provided through the issuance of Lottery Revenue Bonds. Bond proceeds in the amount of \$200 million were made available from the first bond sale during November to partially fund the Classrooms for Kids Program. Once the first two tranches of funds totaling \$570 million for the Classrooms for Kids Program are structured for funding, the District Effort Recognition Program will be funded in the amount of \$30 million.

Under the District Effort Recognition Program, school districts that do not meet the constitutional class size maximums must use the funds for capital outlay purposes to reduce class size. School districts that meet the constitutional class size maximum may use the funds for any lawful capital outlay purpose.

To receive funds pursuant to the District Effort Recognition Program, the attached District School Board certification must be completed. By completing this certification, the district acknowledges that sufficient student capacity does/does not exist within facilities to meet the constitutional class size requirements.

RAYMOND MONTELEONE

Deputy Commissioner / Chief Operating Education Financial Officer

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Additionally, to participate in the program, a project list approved by the superintendent and the District School Board must be provided. The attached project list must be completed to include the school name, project name with description, the type of project, the student stations provided, and whether the project was included in the 2002-2003 five-year work program. Instructions for this form are also included.

Authorization to encumber the funds will be obtained by the completion of OEF Form 352. A contract should not be signed or a purchase order issued until an Encumbrance Authorization, OEF Form 1, is received from the Office of Educational Facilities Budgeting. Pursuant to Section 1013.736 (1), Florida Statutes, the appropriated funds for the District Effort Recognition Program are not subject to reversion as provided in Section 216.301 (3), Florida Statutes. Since the program is funded from bond proceeds, federal arbitrage spend-down requirements of 36 months will apply. Cash may be requested, on a 30-day basis, through the completion of the OEF Form 442.

In order to anticipate the funding needs of the districts, please complete the cash draw projection worksheet that is being provided as an attachment. This will assist the Office of Educational Facilities Budgeting in determining when it will be necessary to sell bonds to fund the projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Waltz at (850) 245-9244 or SUNCOM 205-9244.

RM:cwh

Attachments

cc: District Finance Officers
District Facility Planners
Jeanine Blomberg
Scott Kittel
Jerry Martin
Charlene Waltz
Jim Warford
Charles Wooten