

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Commissioner of Education



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March 31, 2004

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Florida School Administrators

**FROM:** Jim Warford

**SUBJECT:** New Standards for Educational Leaders

As Florida moves forward to achieve its goal of highest student achievement, improving the quality of school leadership at all levels becomes an essential component towards meeting that goal. Educators have long known that effective school leadership makes a difference in student achievement. Effective school leadership is predicated upon a strong system of standards that articulate the basis for a shared vision of instructional leadership for our schools.

In order to assist Florida's school leaders in meeting this shared goal, a newly revised set of Standards for Educational Leaders has been developed during the past year. It represents the contributions of hundreds of Florida K-12 educators, administrators, professional organization officers and representatives, school leadership preparation program staff, state department of education personnel, and community leaders.

The new Florida Standards for Educational Leaders are built upon the previous Florida Principal Competencies as well as the latest research and work from the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) standards for school leaders. It provides a framework of sample key indicators for expectation for Beginning, Mid-Career and High Performing Principals. Adoption of the new standards will provide the basis for systemic revision of existing school leadership preparation programs, professional development programs for improving the skills of current school leaders, and the recognition of high performing leadership performance.

As part of the process for developing and establishing the new Florida Standards for Educational Leaders, we are inviting and encouraging school leaders to review and comment upon the new standards prior to their final approval and implementation at the state level. A copy of these new standards is included as an attachment to this letter. Your comments on the new standards should be directed to Ava Byrne at [Ava.Byrne@fldoe.org](mailto:Ava.Byrne@fldoe.org) prior to April 15, 2004.

JIM WARFORD  
*K-12 Chancellor*