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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford

DATE: April 9, 2004

SUBJECT: 2002-2003 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data

We are pleased to provide you with the electronic copy of the 2002-2003 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) collects data on 21 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors through the *School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR)* system. *SESIR*, as it is commonly identified, collects incident data that occur on school grounds, on school-sponsored transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year.

FDOE also collects data on six types of disciplinary actions that are administered when students violate school or district rules. The three main discipline actions described in this report are in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions.

JIM WARFORD
K-12 Chancellor

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The report contains tables and figures that summarize the *SESIR* and discipline data that were reported to FDOE by the 67 Florida school districts for 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003. This report provides statewide totals, including a trend analysis of the *SESIR* data and discipline data over a period of three school years, 2000-2003, and discipline data disaggregated by school grade level, gender, and race for 2000-2003. It also contains a comprehensive district data profile of the *SESIR* and discipline data for each of the 67 school districts in Florida over the past three years.

The latest report may be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/discipline.htm>

Please note that pursuant to Section 1006.09(6), Florida Statutes, the principal is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the *SESIR* and discipline data for the school. A process should be in place for verifying the accuracy and making corrections to the data on an ongoing basis. One challenge to accurate reporting is reporting expulsions. To ensure accuracy of reporting expulsions, it is important that a process is in place to change “out-of-school suspension” to “expulsion” in the district database when the school board has determined a student is to be expelled. Over reporting of suspensions and inaccuracies in expulsions may result, if the record is not changed.

As indicated in DPS Memo 03-056, dated December 23, 2002, the FDOE will assist with a system review as well as provide customized training to help meet the specific needs of districts with their collection and reporting accuracy. Please contact Louise Rill, Program Specialist, Office of Safe Schools, at 850-245-0416 or Suncom 205-0416 or at Louise.Rill@fldoe.org to schedule this review and/or training.

Thank you for your continued support in creating and maintaining safe learning environments for students and staff.

JW/lhr

cc: Safe Schools Contacts
Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinators
District MIS Contacts
Student Services Coordinators