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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford

DATE: July 23, 2004

SUBJECT: 2005 State-Level Florida Youth Survey Effort – Behavioral Survey Instruments

The annual Florida Youth Survey Effort will be conducted in the spring of 2005, during a six-week period. Through this effort, multiple behavioral survey instruments will be administered to a representative sample of middle and/or high school students in a sample of schools. These survey instruments are: the *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey* (FYSAS), the *Florida Youth Tobacco Survey* (FYTS), the *Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey* (FYRBS), and the *Florida Youth Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey* (FYPAN). Notification of whether your district and a sample of your students and schools are selected to participate in the effort will be sent in January 2005.

The FYSAS and FYTS will be administered to middle and high school students, the FYRBS to high school students only, and the FYPAN to middle school students only. The 2005 versions of these instruments will be forwarded at that time as well.

JIM WARFORD
K-12 Chancellor

District School Superintendents

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These surveys are administered through a collaborative effort of the Florida Departments of Education, Health, Juvenile Justice, and Children and Families, under the leadership of the Governor's Office of Drug Control. They are funded by sources other than federal education funds. Because the funding sources are not federal education funds, districts will not have to have "active parental consent" to allow students to take the survey.

However, pursuant to the provisions of the federal *Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment* (PPRA) to the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), local educational agencies that administer surveys which ask students about certain kinds of sensitive information must have developed and adopted policies, in conjunction with parents, regarding:

- Giving parents the right to inspect the survey upon request
- Making arrangements to protect student privacy
- "Directly" notifying parents of these policies:
 - Annually at the beginning of the school year and
 - Within a reasonable period of time if any substantive change is made
- Offering parents an opportunity to *opt* their child *out* of participation
- Notifying parents of the dates when the survey is scheduled

For detail about the requirements of the PPRA, please see link below:

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

For further questions about the survey administration, please contact Lorraine Allen or Judy Bishop.

JW/jb

cc: Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinators
District Coordinated School Health Contacts
District Student Services Directors
Melissa Murray, Department of Health
Hal Johnson, Department of Children and Families

JIM WARFORD
K-12 Chancellor