

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

F. PHILIP HANDY, *Chairman*

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Vice Chairman*

Members

LINDA J. EADS, Ed.D.

CHARLES PATRICK GARCÍA

JULIA L. JOHNSON

WILLIAM L. PROCTOR, Ph.D.

LINDA K. TAYLOR

JOHN WINN
Commissioner of Education



Contact Person

Name: Karen Morris
Phone: 850-245-0478
Suncom: 205-0478
Email: Karen.Morris@fldoe.org
DPS: 05-032

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford

DATE: September 1, 2004

SUBJECT: **Exceptional Student Education Week In Florida**

We are pleased to inform you that October 4-8, 2004, is Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Week in Florida.

Florida's education system is based upon the principle that all individuals shall have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their full potential and contribute to the general welfare of the community. Educational programs for exceptional students, including students with disabilities and students who are gifted, incorporate this fundamental principle. In Florida, students with disabilities receive a variety of specialized services and instruction that enable them to participate in, and benefit from, educational activities.

- Access to assistive technology, such as communication devices, Braille, or large-print materials, allows students with disabilities to participate in classroom activities, benefit from instruction, and demonstrate their capabilities.

JIM WARFORD
K-12 Chancellor

- Transition services are provided to students with disabilities to prepare them to attain their desired postschool outcomes, including postsecondary education, employment, and adult living.

Advanced academic opportunities are provided to students who are gifted through acceleration and enrichment activities that help them expand their horizons and reach their potential. The State of Florida has demonstrated its commitment to school improvement and accountability for all students, which will increase positive outcomes for Florida's approximately 514,000 exceptional students ages birth through 21. Nearly 57,000 Florida teachers, paraprofessionals, and other educators who work daily to assist these students and their parents to achieve their goals and progress on the path to excellence also demonstrate this commitment.

The contributions of these educators are worthy of recognition and appreciation. To foster this recognition and appreciation, we encourage you to work with others in your area to develop activities that focus on the abilities of ESE students and their teachers.

Thank you for contributing to a statewide program of public recognition highlighting the strengths and activities of Florida's ESE programs.

JW/kmm

cc: Exceptional Student Education Directors
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Associate Center Managers
Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Specialized Center Managers
Institute for Small and Rural Districts Director