FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CHARLIE CRIST
Commissioner

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DPS: **02-107**

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Betty Coxe BC

DATE: June 7, 2002

SUBJECT: ***Process for Submittal of Safety and Security Best Practices Self-Assessment Report***

As you are aware, the 2001 Legislature created Section 229.8348, Florida Statutes, pertaining to Safety and Security Best Practices review, self-assessment, recommendations, and report. Specifically, the statute states that:

> Each school district shall use the Safety and Security Best Practices to conduct a self-assessment of the school district's current safety and security practices. Based on these self-assessment findings, the superintendent of each school district shall provide recommendations to the school board which identify strategies and activities that the school district should implement in order to improve school safety and security.
>
> By July 1, 2002, and annually thereafter, each school board must receive the self-assessment results at a publicly noticed school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the school board members discuss and take action on the report findings. Each superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and school board
> action to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days following the school board meeting.

Based on the statutory language, reports should be received in the Department of Education no later than July 31, 2002. Please note that there will be no deadline extensions, as waivers cannot be given for activities in Chapter 229, Florida Statutes.

As you prepare to submit your report, please send the original report and one hard copy and an electronic copy in a Microsoft Word or PDF file on CD or disk to:

Commissioner Charlie Crist
Attention: Office of Safe Schools
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Room 301
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Lorraine Allen or Julie Collins, Office of Safe Schools, at 850-410-1667 or SunCom 210-1667, or at allenl@mail.doe.state.fl.us or collinj@mail.doe.state.fl.us.

We thank you for your commitment to ensuring students in your district have a safe and secure place in which to learn. Students thrive and learn in schools that have an environment that is free of drugs and violence; classrooms that are well disciplined; strategies that lead students to make healthy life choices; and administrators, teachers, and students who respect the civil rights of all. This self-assessment will help you identify areas of improvement to bring these desired ends to a reality.

This memorandum is available at http://www.firn.edu/doe/bin00005/dpsmemo02/index.htm on the DOE Internet Homepage. See Division of Public Schools.

BC/lha

cc: Secretary Jim Horne
John W. Turcotte, Director, OPPAGA
District Safe Schools Contacts
District Safe and Drug-Free Schools Contacts
District School Improvement Contacts
District School Emergency Management Contacts
District Transportation Directors
District Coordinated School Health Contacts
District Drop-out Prevention Coordinators
District Exceptional Student Education Administrators
District School Facilities Contacts
Partnership for School Safety and Security