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MEMORANDUM

TO: Exceptional Student Education Directors
FDLRS Associate Center Managers

FROM: Bambi J. Lockman

DATE: February 8, 2005

SUBJECT: **2005 Family Café Conference**

Contact Information:

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K12: 2005-03

The Department of Education is proud to support the 7th Annual Family Café Conference and Governor's Summit on Disabilities as part of our commitment to provide a quality education to all students. During the annual three-day conference, individuals with disabilities and special health care needs and their families have an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, to interact with state agencies' representatives and private providers, and to expand their network of supports. The 7th Annual Family Café Conference will be held June 3-5, 2005, in Orlando, Florida, at the Caribe Royale, located at 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando, Florida (707-238-8083).

Pre-conference registration for the 7th Annual Family Café Conference will begin on February 14, 2005. There is no conference registration fee. Limited financial assistance will be provided to families by Family Café. The financial assistance funds through Family Café are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and have historically been exhausted soon after registration opens. Therefore, we encourage districts to make families of students with disabilities aware of the pre-conference registration and financial assistance as soon as possible. We also encourage you to financially support families to attend the 7th Annual Family Café Conference through the use of discretionary grants.

As part of the conference, Governor Jeb Bush will speak at the 7th Annual Governor's Summit on Disabilities on Friday, June 3, 2005, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Participants may either register online at www.familycafe.net or call the Family Café office at 1-888-309-2233 to request a registration brochure be mailed. Pre-registration ends on March 30, 2005.

BJL/kbm

cc: District Parent Services Personnel
FDLRS Parent Services Personnel
State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN

Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services