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Contact Person:

Name: Traci Phillips

Phone: (850) 245-0424

Suncom: 205-0424

Email: traci.phillips@fldoe.org

K12: 2005-27

MEMORANDUM

To: District School Superintendents

From: Jim Warford, Chancellor

Date: March 7, 2005

Subject: 2004 Report for the Study of Alternatives to Suspension

The Department of Education, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach (OFCO) has contracted with Evaluation Systems Design, Inc., to conduct a study of the procedures and programs school districts have implemented that are alternatives to suspending students from school. This project is funded through Title IV and began in February 2004.

The purposes of this study are to:

- Identify existing practices regarding alternatives to suspension currently being used in school district within the state;
- Identify outcome-based effective practices;
- Identify essential components of outcome-based effective practices; and
- Catalogue and describe an array of programs that can be used by districts as effective outcome-based alternatives to suspension.

Attached is a copy of the Executive Summary of the study. The full report is available under the publications section of the website for Evaluation Systems Design, Inc., <http://www.esdi.cc/>:

JIM WARFORD
K-12 CHANCELLOR

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In the second phase of the study for the remainder of this school year and in conjunction with the project advisory committee, Evaluation Systems Design, Inc., will be conducting site visits to an additional 10 school districts. The site visits will be conducted in April of 2005. We encourage your district to participate if selected. The visits will be one day with two consultants interviewing district staff for approximately two hours and then visiting up to four selected sites/schools with the best programs or strategies in place, each for approximately two hours.

Two additional surveys will also be conducted: a web-based survey of all 67 districts to obtain additional input into the study and recommendations for improving the alternative programs, and a web-based survey of all schools in the state to obtain more detailed information on current practices in alternatives to out-of-school suspension. Districts and schools will be notified via e-mail of the surveys and the link to the website. Please extend to Evaluation Systems Design, Inc., your assistance in gathering these insightful data.

I hope you will join the Department in our efforts to learn more about effective alternatives to suspension in the state of Florida.

cc Directors of Student Services
 Dropout Prevention Contacts
 Exceptional Student Education Coordinators