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K12: 2005-29

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford

DATE: March 15, 2005

SUBJECT: 2003-2004 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data

The Florida Department of Education's goal of *Highest Student Achievement* is one of the top priorities for K-12 schools. In order to reach this goal, the Department recognizes that students learn best in a school environment that is safe, healthy, and drug free. In order to support this goal, the Office of Safe and Healthy Schools is pleased to provide you with the electronic copy of the 2003-2004 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) collects data on 21 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors through the *School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR)* system. *SESIR* collects incident data that occur on school grounds, on school-sponsored transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year.

JIM WARFORD
K-12 Chancellor

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This report contains tables and figures that summarize the *SESIR* and discipline data that were reported to DOE by the 67 Florida school districts for 2001-2002, 2002-2003, and 2003-2004. This report provides statewide totals, including a trend of the *SESIR* data and discipline data including actions of in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions disaggregated by school grade level, gender, and race for three years, 2001 to 2004. It also contains a comprehensive district data profile of the *SESIR* and discipline data for each of the 67 school districts in Florida over the past three years.

The latest report may be viewed at the following website:

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

Please note that pursuant to Section 1006.09(6), Florida Statutes, the principal is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the *SESIR* and discipline data for the school. A process should be in place for verifying the accuracy and making corrections to the data on an ongoing basis. The DOE will assist districts with a system review of their *SESIR* and discipline reporting as well as provide customized training for school leaders to help meet the specific needs of the district with their collection and reporting accuracy. To schedule this review/training, please contact Louise Rill, Program Specialist, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools.

We thank you for your continued support in creating and maintaining safe learning environments for your students and staff.

JW/lr