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K12: 2005-33

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jim Warford

DATE: March 24, 2005

SUBJECT: Public Charter Schools Federal Grant Program
2005-2008 Planning, Program Design, and Implementation Projects

Charter schools have a key role in helping to achieve the State Board of Education's Strategic Imperative 5: *Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Education Options*. The Public Charter Schools Federal Grant Program supports this initiative by providing funds to Florida for the purpose of awarding grants to charter schools that are partnering with "local chartering agencies" to provide a high quality education for all students.

The attached Request for Application (RFA) outlines the application process and requirements for a three-year charter school planning, program design and initial implementation project. Charter schools that have had their applications approved by their school boards and plan to open in the 2005-2006 school year are eligible to apply for funding. The project will provide funds for start-up and initial implementation costs that are necessary to open a charter school and provide a high quality education for all students.

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To assist district charter school contacts and new charter school operators to complete an application that meets the RFA requirements and prepare a three-year budget, the Department has scheduled multiple technical assistance conference calls on April 1, 2005. There are two scheduled morning calls with the first at 9:30 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m. Persons interested in participating in the conference call should call 850-414-1711. The third conference call is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., and persons interested in participating may call 850-414-5775. Additional information and materials to be discussed during the conference call will be posted at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/choice/charter/html/>.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Karen Bennett at karen.bennett@fldoe.org or Sue Wilkinson at sue.wilkinson@fldoe.org.

JW:pmh

cc: District Charter School Contacts
Operators of Charter Schools Approved to Open in 2005