

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**TO:** District School Superintendents  
School Principals

**FROM:** John L. Winn

**DATE:** March 30, 2005

**SUBJECT: Florida Missing Children's Day Statewide Essay Contest – April 29, 2005  
Deadline**

The Florida Missing Children Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board is sponsoring the 2005 Florida Missing Children's Day (FMCD). This special ceremony remembers past and present missing children and recognizes those citizens who work hard to bring children home safely. This year's ceremony will be held on Monday, September 12, 2005, at the Capitol in Tallahassee.

To create awareness among the children of Florida, an essay contest is again being held in conjunction with FMCD. Recognizing that students learn best in a safe school environment, I want to encourage all fourth grade students to participate in this contest, with each school selecting one winner. The chosen essay from your school will be submitted to the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board. One essay will be selected as the statewide winner. The winner will be invited to Tallahassee to read the essay on the steps of the Capitol. The winner will also receive a trip to Tallahassee with his or her parent, a check for \$250, and a trophy. This year's theme is, "This is How I Stay Safe All Day."

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A contest poster and the guidelines for the essay contest are attached. Entries of the winning essay from each school must be submitted by April 29, 2005, to:

Mrs. Pat Rutherford or Mrs. Dawn Mikola  
Florida Missing Children Information Clearinghouse  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Post Office Box 1489  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1489

The essay entry may also be faxed to (850) 410-8599. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pat Rutherford or Mrs. Dawn Mikola at 1-888-356-4774. We look forward to welcoming the statewide winner to Tallahassee.

JW/lp

Attachments