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May 17, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
Community College Presidents
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FROM: Theresa A. Klebacha, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: *Performance on the Common Placement Test*

Improving student rates of learning has been established as one of the top priorities in the Florida Department of Education's strategic plan, known as "Eight to be Great!" The specific goal is for every student to be proficient on grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics. This includes ensuring that all students who graduate from a Florida high school are prepared to succeed in college. Infusing academic rigor into every high school student's schedule is a proven method for increasing success in college and beyond. As rigor becomes the norm in our high schools, the increasing success of our students will be tracked and reported to you.

The Department of Education is in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of readiness indicators to share with school districts and individual high schools regarding their recent high school graduates. The new data is expected to be released in the summer of 2005 and include information on 2004 high school graduates. A component of this new report has traditionally been released annually as a report called *Performance on the Common Placement Test*. Its purpose was to provide districts and schools with information about their graduates' performance on entry-level placement assessments at Florida's community colleges and state universities. Prior to the release of the new report, this year's *Performance on the Common Placement Test* is being released in the old format.

THERESA A. KLEBACHA, PH.D.
Director, Strategic Initiatives

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The latest version of *Performance on the Common Placement Test* covers 2003 public high school graduates who attended public colleges or universities in Florida during the academic year immediately following high school graduation. Students who did not go to college or who attended private or out-of-state colleges are not included in these reports. The Web format provides state summaries by district, school, college and ethnicity, as well as specialized reports that districts and colleges have asked us to produce to assist with tracking their students. The reports are available at <http://info.doe.state.fl.us/perfCPT/>.

You will notice as you review the reports that there was a full percentage point increase over the prior year in students scoring above the cutoff score in all three testing areas (from 58.1% to 59.1%). Even more striking are the gains made by underrepresented groups of students. As the summary chart below indicates, black students scoring above the cutoff score in all three subject areas increased by 1.5 percentage points, while Hispanic students in the same category increased by 2.8 percentage points.

Percent Scoring Above Cutoff Score in All Three Subjects

	2002 Graduates		2003 Graduates	
	# Tested	% Above Cutoff	# Tested	% Above Cutoff
<u>All Degree-Seeking Students</u>	59,451	58.1%	62,002	59.1%
<u>American Indian</u>	203	59.6%	217	59%
<u>Asian</u>	2,286	69.9%	2,213	72.4%
<u>Black</u>	10,203	33.9%	10,088	35.4%
<u>Hispanic</u>	10,490	48.5%	11,422	51.3%
<u>White</u>	35,173	67.5%	36,851	67.5%

Each district’s MIS director will receive instructions for accessing student-level performance data via the mainframe. Unlike the bound reports provided in years past, mainframe access allows districts to query and print the specific information they need for local reporting purposes.

If you have questions or feedback, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Dr. Heather Sherry directly at Heather.Sherry@fldoe.org or by telephone at 850-245-0427.

TK/hsa