

July 25, 2002

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Secretary Jim Horne

SUBJECT: Regional Forums for Development of
Inter-local Agreements

On May 31, 2002, Governor Bush signed Senate Bill 1906. One of the hallmarks of that legislation is the requirement for an inter-local agreement between school boards and local governments. Governor Bush supported this legislation after having witnessed many instances of growth outpacing the ability of school boards to provide adequate classroom space. This bill was passed with broad public and legislative support. As part of a comprehensive strategy to further the ability of Floridians to provide quality education for their children, this legislation seeks to strengthen existing law relating to coordinated land use and school planning. Changes have been made to both Sections 163.31777 and 235.193, Florida Statutes, requiring school boards and local governments to enter into an inter-local agreement to define the specific ways in which both entities will coordinate their plans.

The agreement must be submitted to the Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review beginning in March 2003 and completing in December 2004. The schedule was published July 19, 2002, in the Florida Administrative Weekly and on the DCA web site at www.dca.state.fl.us.

A series of regional forums will be held throughout the state as part of an outreach effort to inform all local governments and school boards of these new requirements. The forums will highlight the issues the inter-local agreements must address and the procedures to be followed for the review. The technical and funding assistance available from DCA and DOE will also be covered. Finally, there will be facilitated breakout sessions by district to allow local governments and the school board to initiate a dialogue regarding how they wish to organize to achieve the inter-local agreement.

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The forum for your region is being hosted by your respective Regional Planning Council. You will soon receive notification from the Council regarding the date, time, and location of the meeting. I want to strongly encourage the school board's full participation in the forum. For this initiative to succeed, there must be sincere engagement by all parties.

If you have any questions, please call Jerry Martin at 850-488-6741 or Suncom 278-6741 with DOE, or Mike McDaniel at 850-922-1806 or Suncom 292-1806 with DCA.

JH:jmh