

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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November 4, 2005

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Student Services Directors  
High School Guidance Supervisors  
High School Guidance Counselors  
Community College Student Services Directors  
State University Student Services Directors

**FROM:** John L. Winn

**SUBJECT:** *2006 Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*

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The State Board of Education has identified Highest Student Achievement and Seamless Articulation and Maximum Access as two of its primary goals. Guidance counselors play an important part in achieving these goals because students depend on them as a primary source of current information for academic advising and personal decision-making. Counselors are often the touchstone of consistency, support, and encouragement for students seeking to identify their goals and prepare for future learning opportunities. Students and parents count on the information they seek from counselors to be current and accurate relative to postsecondary transitions and options. The dedicated work of guidance counselors as academic advisors, mentors, coaches, advocates, and educators is greatly appreciated.

One valuable resource that counselors have depended upon for many years is the *Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*. This publication, updated annually, provides a comprehensive reference guide to postsecondary education in Florida. The *2006 Handbook* is available in an online-only version at FACTS.org ([www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org)) under the Advising Manuals menu. This is the second year the *Handbook* has been posted in an online version, and positive feedback indicates an appreciation for the ease of navigation, keyword searches, and the continuous updates of information. Students and parents can easily access the *Handbook* online at school or at home to find a wealth of information. For those who desire a desk copy of the document, there is the option to download and print a PDF version of the *Handbook*; however, those who use a printed version are encouraged to check the Web periodically for updates.

Memorandum  
Page Two  
November 4, 2005

As counselors continue to emphasize the importance of rigor in their students' coursework, the *Handbook* provides valuable information on the various acceleration mechanisms available to students, as well as the expectations for freshmen entering Florida's State University System. Sections taken directly from the *Handbook* can be used as handouts at parent meetings, advising sessions, or as supplements to a school's own curriculum guide.

We hope you find the *2006 Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook* helpful, and we welcome your input on future improvements. Best wishes for an outstanding academic year!

HRS/da