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K12: **2006-38**

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: March 17, 2006

SUBJECT: **Florida's First Annual Bullying Prevention Conference – April 27-28, 2006**

The Florida Department of Education (DOE), Office of Safe and Healthy Schools, Safe and Drug-Free Schools (SDFS) Program, is sponsoring Florida's First Annual Bullying Prevention Conference, on April 27 – 28, 2006, at Florida Mall Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida. The purpose for the Bullying Prevention Conference is to raise awareness about the issue of bullying and provide knowledge acquisition and skill-building opportunities on the topics of bullying and bullying prevention to those who work with students.

The conference is designed for prevention specialists, school guidance counselors, teachers, principals, Safe and Drug-Free Coordinators, school health educators, school psychologists/social workers, School Resource Officers (SROs)/law enforcement, staff development directors, deans of discipline, student service directors, PTA members, children and family mental health counselors, school advisory council members, school nurses, school board members, parents, extended day/after school staff, etc.

The conference will offer workshops in many areas, including:

- Creating Positive School Environments to Address Bullying
- Bullying Prevention Programs and Strategies
- Cyber Bullying
- Adult Bullying
- Use of Surveys and Assessment of Bullying
- Engaging and Understanding Bystanders in Bullying Prevention
- Identifying, Responding, and Understanding Victimization
- Bullying, Depression, and Suicide
- Bullying and Relational Aggression
- Bullying and Sexual Harassment

During the conference, participants will have opportunities to interact and network with others. Presenters with expertise in developing and implementing bullying prevention programs, developmental and school psychology, law enforcement, education science, school safety administration, health education, computer technology, Florida Law, and student support services, will challenge participants to understand the ramifications of bullying, consider their role in preventing bullying, and enhance their repertoire of skills to address it.

Participants can access a complete listing and description of workshops offered at the conference and register for the conference at **http://www.gnahec.org**. Early Bird registration fee is $119 (postmarked by March 27, 2006); registration fee is $145 (after March 27, 2006). Registration can be paid by purchase order, check, or credit card and should be made payable to Gulfcoast North AHEC. Space is limited to 600 participants, and registration will be accepted on a space-available basis. CEUs for nurses and other licensed mental health professionals and in-service points will also be available.

Hotel room rate at the Florida Mall Hotel is $99. To make hotel reservations, please contact Florida Mall Hotel at 800-588-4656 or http://www.thefloridamallhotel.com. When making hotel reservations, please make sure to mention the room block name, which is "Florida's Annual Bullying Prevention Conference."

If you have questions or comments, please contact Carol Gagliano, Instructional Designer, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools.

CPY:cg