

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

**DATE:** March 20, 2006

**SUBJECT:** **Class of 2006 Top 20% Commissioner's Letter**

### **Contact Information:**

Helen Lancashire

(850) 488-1842

[hlancash@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:hlancash@tempest.coedu.usf.edu)

**K12: 2006-39**

We appreciate the assistance provided by your school district staff and counselors in identifying the class of 2006 students who ranked in the top 20% of their class for the Talented 20 program. Florida continues to focus on maximizing student achievement and student access to postsecondary education opportunities.

Attached to this memorandum is a copy of the English version of Commissioner John Winn's congratulatory letter to the graduating class of 2006 students who were preliminarily identified as graduating in the upper 20% of their class. This letter congratulates those students on their scholastic accomplishment and explains that by graduating in the top 20% of their class they may be eligible for the Talented 20 program, an opportunity to become eligible for admission to a state university provided they meet remaining eligibility criteria. These requirements include enrollment in a Florida public high school and graduating with a standard diploma in 2006, completion of the eighteen core course requirement for state university admission, and taking the SAT or the ACT by the first semester of their freshman year. It also encourages students and their parents to meet with their high school guidance counselor for information relative to the Talented 20 program and financial aid opportunities.

High school counselors play a vital role in helping to ensure that students who potentially qualify for the Talented 20 program in the spring of 2006 (1) receive a transcript review to verify courses in progress to meet the eighteen core course requirement for state university admission,

CHERI PIERSON YECKE, PH.D.  
CHANCELLOR, K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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(2) apply to several state universities that best meet their academic profile indicating that they are potentially eligible for the Talented 20 program, and (3) complete financial aid and scholarship applications.

The Department continues to be enthusiastic about the Talented 20 program and the expanded opportunities it provides for these students. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Helen Lancashire at 850/488-1842, Suncom 278-1842.

CY:hl

Attachment

cc: District Student Services Directors  
District School Counselor Supervisors  
High School Principals