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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Certification Contacts

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: March 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Update on Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements of No Child Left Behind

This memorandum is sent in support of Strategic Imperative One, that each Florida classroom is staffed by a highly effective teacher. The purpose is to clarify Florida's plan for teachers to meet the highly qualified requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and to advise you of changes in requirements provided in a Florida Title II monitoring visit report issued by the USDE. There are a few changes that impact the earlier technical assistance information issued by the Florida Department of Education relating to highly qualified teachers (HQT). In addition to a revised middle/secondary HQT chart showing new social science HQT requirements, a revised HQT chart for regular elementary teachers that includes an American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) or National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certificate as an option for some teachers to meet the HQT subject testing requirement are included. The latest guidance document issued by the USDE relating to highly qualified teacher requirements that supersedes all prior guidance is available at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/guidance.pdf>.

Please see the attached technical assistance pages for more detailed information related to the highly qualified requirements of NCLB. These changes will require a passing score on the appropriate social science subject area exam or a HOUSSE plan(s) for the specific social science content area of the course(s) either history, economics, geography, or civics/ government (political science) rather than a HOUSSE plan for comprehensive social science. If you have questions regarding this memorandum or the technical assistance information, you may contact Beverly Gregory.

CPY/b

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