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CONTACT PERSON:

NAME: Lorraine Husum Allen
Michael Turner
PHONE: 850-245-0416
SUNCOM: 205-0416
E-MAIL: Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org
Michael.Turner@fldoe.org
K-12: 2006-50

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke

DATE: April 12, 2006

SUBJECT: **2004-2005 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data and Updates to School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR) Definitions and Guidelines and Disciplinary Action Codes**

The Florida Department of Education's goal of *Highest Student Achievement* is one of the top priorities for K-12 schools. In order to reach this goal, the Department recognizes that students learn best in a school environment that is safe, healthy, and drug free. In order to support this goal, the Office of Safe and Healthy Schools is pleased to provide you with the electronic copy of the 2004-2005 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) collects data on 21 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors through the *School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR)* system. The latest report may be viewed at:

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/discipline.htm>

This report provides statewide totals, including a trend of the *SESIR* data and discipline data including actions of in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions disaggregated by school grade level, gender, and race for three years, 2002 to 2005.

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

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Additionally, for the 2005-2006 school year, some revisions were made to disciplinary action codes used in the Department of Education's *Information Data Base Requirements, Automated Student Information System*, and were shared at the June DOE Database Conference. These modifications were made to meet federal requirements or to clarify disciplinary actions for improved accuracy. The SESIR Definitions and Guidelines apply to the 2005-2006 school year and may be viewed at:

<http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/sesir/0001pdf/0001definitions.pdf>

Revisions were also made to the incident seriousness levels (Levels I-IV) to alleviate some problems encountered when multiple incidents occur at the same time and with the same offenders. Please refer to Definitions and Guidelines as listed above or to *Appendix P, Definitions for Incident Reporting, DOE Information Data Base Requirements, Automated Student Information System, Automated Student Data Elements*, for incident changes. These changes may be viewed at:

http://www.firn.edu/doe/eias/dataweb/database_0506/student_0506/appendp.pdf

Changes to disciplinary action codes were also made to meet reporting requirements for the Gun-Free Schools Act, requests by districts, or increased clarity of disciplinary action definitions. These disciplinary action codes may be viewed at the *DOE Information Database Requirements, Automated Student Information System, Automated Student Data Elements*:

http://www.firn.edu/doe/eias/dataweb/database_0506/student_0506/st57_1_2.pdf

To ensure information coordination between districts and the DOE regarding required reporting, please provide the name of the person in your district responsible for school safety and discipline reporting so we can update our contact list. You may list more than one contact person if you have a separate contact for charter schools, for example. Please enter your district's name and the contact person's name, title, address, e-mail address, and phone number at the following link as soon as possible. The login and the password are both SESIR.

<http://data.fldoe.org/sesir>

The Department also offers individualized training to schools and school districts on improving the accuracy of their school safety and discipline data. If you are interested in this training being offered in your district, please contact Michael Turner, Program Specialist, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to improve the accuracy of your school safety and discipline data collection and reporting system. An accurate picture of crime, violence, and disruption in your schools provides the basis for identifying areas of student behavior in greatest need of improvement, data necessary for public and private funding opportunities for appropriate interventions, and is also necessary to measure prevention and intervention program effectiveness.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lorraine Allen, Senior Educational Program Director, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools.

CPY/lr