

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: May 11, 2006

SUBJECT: Family Friendly Schools

Given that the evidence of more than 35 years of research in education is consistent and convincing that families have major influence on their children's achievement in school and throughout life, we thank you for establishing family friendly environments at your schools. You are encouraged to ensure that your school environment--from the front desk to the classroom--meets the Department of Education's goal for improving student achievement. As you know, it is important to create school environments that welcome the students and their families, as well as provide parents with the information and support to become effectively involved in assisting their children to reach their highest potential.

Two resources available to you as you work toward this goal are:

- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Network - This network includes nineteen associate centers that serve from one to nine school districts. These centers collaborate with districts, agencies, communities, and other educational entities, providing education and support for teachers, parents, therapists, school administrators, and students with exceptionalities. Each center includes specialists in the areas of Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development (HRD), and Technology. You may find out more about FDLRS online at www.fdlrs.com.

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

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- Bureau of Family & Community Outreach - The Bureau provides resources, training, and technical assistance for parents, volunteers, schools, and communities. You may find out more about the Bureau online at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/family/>.

By reaching out to involve parents in education, the schools send a message that education is important and build critical support for students as they learn.

CPK/kbm

cc: District Superintendents
District Parent Services Personnel
FDLRS Parent Services Personnel
FDLRS Associate Center Managers
State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students