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August 25, 2006

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K-12: 2006-119

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Middle School Principals

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.
Chancellor, Division of K-12 Public Schools

Evan Lefsky, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Just Read, Florida!

SUBJECT: BREAKING A WORLD RECORD: *READING ALOUD!*

Today Governor Bush announced that our middle school students will move forward to break a reading record through Guinness World Records™ entitled *Most People Reading Aloud Simultaneously at Multiple Locations*. Across the state, 303 schools reflecting over 214,000 middle schoolers have already expressed interest in participating in our *Reading Aloud!* record attempt.

The record breaking event is scheduled for 11:00 am EDT on Thursday, September 28, 2006. Students will read an excerpt from *Peter and the Starcatchers* by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson. In order to be considered officially registered to participate in this event, all interested schools, not students, **must** provide their information via online database by close of business September 22, 2006. Each school's contact person/organizer for this event will need to visit www.justreadflorida.com to register their school and provide the number of students participating. They will set up a password protected account and submit their school's information, including the number of students participating, their witnesses, notary, videographers, photographers, and lead readers.

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Upon registering, the following is available through the organizer's password protected site in a downloadable format:

- The excerpt of text to be used for the read aloud
- The certification package checklist
- The sign-in sheets for students
- The sample witness statements
- The activities including a discussion guide for the text

If you have any questions beyond what is included in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document available at www.justreadflorida.com, please contact Holly Radcliffe at Holly.Radcliffe@fldoe.org, (850) 245-0509, or Sun Com 205-0509; or Just Read, Florida! at (850) 245-0503.