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November 20, 2006

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: John L. Winn

SUBJECT: Read Together, Florida! High School Essay Contest Deadline Extension

I am pleased to announce that we are extending the high school essay contest deadline for the Read Together, Florida! One State/One Book literacy promotion. The featured book is ***The Zero Game*** by Florida-based author Brad Meltzer. The new deadline is **January 31, 2007,** at midnight.

Additionally, we are lifting the requirement asking each school to conduct a pre-judging. **Students may now submit their essays independently** for judging by going to: http://data.fldoe.org/rtf_essay/.

The Zero Game is a highly engaging *New York Times* bestseller. If your students have not already read the book, please encourage them to do so. Some facts about the contest include:

- The **essay contest asks students to write about a situation in their own lives when they were faced with conflicting moral choices**. For details, go to www.VolunteerFloridaFoundation.org.
- **Students may submit individually** via the Internet at http://data.fldoe.org/rtf_essay/
- The **first place winner** will receive **$5,000 for college,** second place $2,500, and third place $1,000.
- The **deadline is January 31, 2007,** at midnight.

- **Book discounts are available** through the publisher, Hachete/Warner Books, by contacting Jody Mosley at jody.mosley@hbgusa.com. A minimum discount of 20% is extended to each school, and perhaps more, depending upon the quantities ordered.

The Read Together, Florida! One State/One Book promotion is a project of the Governor's Family Literacy Initiative and the non-profit Volunteer Florida Foundation. The essay contest is managed by Just Read, Florida! If you have any questions please contact Fonda Anderson at Fonda.Anderson@vfffund.org.

JLW/cv

CC: Literacy Leaders