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DPS: **03-025**

M E M O R A N D U M

To: District School Superintendents

From: Betty Coxe BC

Date: September 3, 2002

Subject: **TENTH ANNUAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SYMPOSIUM**

I am pleased to announce that the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, and the Florida Association of School Social Workers (FASSW) are co-sponsoring the Tenth Annual School Attendance Symposium on November 21-22, 2002, at The Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Symposium collaborators are the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, The Florida Network, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, the Florida Partnership for Family Involvement in Education, and the Florida PTA.

The School Attendance Symposium provides a statewide forum for promoting effective and innovative intervention and retrieval programs that improve school attendance and academic performance. The program will also include updates on policy and state law related to school attendance to ensure that all interested parties have access to important information regarding enforcement and compliance requirements. Emphasis will also be placed on overcoming resistance to school attendance initiatives by identifying and removing barriers to effective program implementation.

Last year's audience of over 600 participants included school district administrators, school principals, teachers, social workers, counselors, psychologists, school health providers, health, dropout prevention program personnel, circuit court judges, parents, juvenile justice personnel, and state attorneys. This audience represents the frontline professionals in education, child and family services, the judiciary, law enforcement, health, and mental health responsible for facilitating school attendance and student retention.

Please distribute the attached Registration Brochure and encourage participation of staff members involved in attendance intervention, prevention, and enforcement activities in your district.

Direct questions regarding the symposium to the office listed above. You may also obtain the attached Registration Brochure online from the Student Support Services Project website at http://sss.usf.edu/html/AttendanceSymposium/2002symp.htm.

BC:gdf

Attachments

cc: Student Services Directors
ESE Directors
School Principals
School Social Work & Attendance Contacts
Dropout Prevention Coordinators
School Health Services Contacts
School Counselor Contacts
School Psychology Contacts
Safe & Drug Free Schools Contacts
Shared Services Network Contacts
Florida Association of School Social Workers
Florida Association of District School Superintendents
Florida School Counselors Association
Education of Homeless Children and Youth
Drug Free Communities (Grantees)
Department of Juvenile Justice
The Florida Network on Children and Families
School Resource Officers Association
Governor's Mentoring Initiative
Court Administrators
State Attorneys
Public Defenders
Juvenile Court Judges
Florida Partnership for Family Involvement
Florida PTA