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July 27, 2007

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: District School Superintendents

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

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

SUBJECT: Charter School Students Permitted to Attend District Summer Reading Camps

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding school districts' responsibility to provide summer reading camps for charter school students.

Districts are required by statute to provide summer reading camps for all third grade students scoring at level 1 on FCAT.

1008.25 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED READERS.--

(a) Students retained under the provisions of paragraph (5)(b) must be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the student's specific reading deficiency, as identified by a valid and reliable diagnostic assessment. **This intensive intervention must include** effective instructional strategies, **participation in the school district's summer reading camp**, and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist those students in becoming successful readers, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.

Districts receive funding through the Research Based Reading Instruction Allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to fund, among other things, summer reading camps, 1011.62 (9), F. S. Unlike other categorical funds in the FEFP, the use of these funds is driven by the K-12 comprehensive reading plan and participation in the reading plan is required by all schools, including charter schools, who receive funds through this allocation. Not all schools who participate in the plan are guaranteed equal funding as districts must prioritize funding to their neediest schools and students.

Below are four question and answer scenarios intended to clarify this issue.

1. If the charter school participates in the district K-12 comprehensive reading plan and receives their full reading allocation from the district based on FTE, should the charter school have to offer their own summer reading camp, even if they only have a few students, and it is not economically feasible?

- No. Students should be permitted to attend a district run summer camp.

2. If the charter school participates in the district K-12 comprehensive reading plan and receives their full reading allocation from the district based on FTE, should the charter school have to pay the district to send students to the district run summer reading camp?

- The district has the option of charging a per student fee to the charter school if additional costs are incurred as a result of the addition of the charter school students.

3. If the charter school participates in the district reading plan but does not receive funding based on district prioritization, should the charter school have to pay the district to send students to the district run summer reading camp?

- No.

4. If the charter does not participate in the district K-12 comprehensive reading plan and therefore does not receive funds from the reading allocation (district retains the funds drawn on the FTE of the charter school students), may the charter school send their students to the district summer reading camp without payment?

- Yes. The district receives funding for all students in the district, including those attending charter schools, regardless of whether the charter school participates in the district K-12 comprehensive reading plan.

If you have further questions, please contact Melinda Webster with the Just Read, Florida! Office, at 850/245-0503 or e-mail Melinda.Webster@fldoe.org or Iris Wilson with the K-12 Public Schools Office, at 850/245-0509 or e-mail Iris.Wilson@fldoe.org.

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