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October 17, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jeanine Blomberg, Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION REGARDING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SEEKING A SPECIAL DIPLOMA

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The Florida Department of Education is pleased to provide clarification regarding the requirements of Section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, which indicates that a student must complete four credits in a major area of interest (MAI) in order to graduate with a 24-credit standard diploma.

The State of Florida provides general guidelines for special diploma options in Section 1003.438, Florida Statutes. Requirements that are more specific are set by each school district in its students progression plan. Therefore, for students pursuing a special diploma, an MAI is not required by statute. However, school districts are encouraged to include MAI's for those students with disabilities seeking a special diploma.

JB/BJL/elt

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
Exceptional Student Education Directors
Chancellor Cheri Pierson Yecke