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January 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Pamela L. Stewart

SUBJECT: DALE HICKAM EXCELLENT TEACHING PROGRAM STATUTE CHANGES FOR CURRENT YEAR

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K12: 2007-199

During a special legislative session held this fall to address the State's budget shortfall, section 1012.72, Florida Statutes, which governs the Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program, was amended as follows:

- (5) *If the funds available in any fiscal year are insufficient to pay in full the annual bonuses for certification and for providing mentoring and related services, payments for providing mentoring and related services shall be prorated among the eligible recipients.*

This change affects bonus processing for the current (2007-08) school year. In order to implement this new language, **all district mentoring bonus requests should be submitted beginning April 1, 2008, with an absolute deadline of June 1, 2008**, so that a total number of eligible recipients may be determined. Once the total number of mentoring bonus recipients has been determined, the amount of the bonus will then be calculated and bonuses will be processed before the end of the State's fiscal year on June 30, 2008. There will be no opportunity to process late bonus requests, unless adequate funds remain in the appropriation after the initial calculation is made at the 10% bonus rate for all requests received by June 1. If this occurs, districts will be notified and late requests would still be due to the Department within time to complete processing before the end of the fiscal year.

No other changes were made to s. 1012.72, F.S., during this session. Additional information regarding this amendment and the appropriation associated with the Program may be obtained at <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/index.cfm?Year=2007C&Chamber=Senate&Tab=session&Submenu=1>.

PLS:cs

cc: School District Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program Contacts

PAM STEWART
DEPUTY CHANCELLOR FOR K-12 EDUCATOR QUALITY