

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2002

TO: Selected School Superintendents and Non-Profit Organizations

FROM: Kathy Mizereck, Director

SUBJECT: Governor's Mentoring Initiative: Rural District Initiative

Conference Report on House Bill 27E, Specific Appropriation 5B, authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award grant dollars for discretionary projects focused on providing mentoring services for students as part of the Governor's Mentoring Initiative. The total allocation for this initiative is \$950,000. For the Rural District Initiative, an amount of \$100,000 has been allocated to provide funding for small or rural districts throughout the state.

This initiative is designed to assist school districts with enrollment populations of less than 25,000 students. **This funding provides incentive dollars to districts to partner and match dollars with nonprofit groups and community based organizations to support a district-level coordinator position for mentoring services.** The Department, in consultation with the Governor's Office, invites your district to submit proposals through your district office for the Rural District Initiative projects. Funds are competitive and each project is limited to \$20,000 per district, not to exceed \$5,000 per school. This allocation is granted for use only during the 2002-2003 school year. Preference will be given to previous applicants that are able to document marked success from the 2001-2002 Governor's Mentoring Initiative Rural District Initiative. Please note that a completed district or nonprofit group application package should include separate Department of Education 101 forms that represent each school's budget as well as an aggregate DOE 101 budget summary from the district.

Non-profit or district applicants should complete and submit the enclosed General Terms, Assurances, and Conditions for Participation in Federal and State Programs form only if one is not already on file

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with the Department of Education. Non-profit organizations are required to include a copy of the overall current budget, the date of operating fiscal period, and a list of the board of directors if applicable. **Project proposals are due by October 21, 2002.**

If funded, collaborating schools may need to amend School Improvement Plans for 2002 - 2003 to incorporate the mentoring strategies for the project. Goals, measurable objectives, activities, timelines, and professional development may need to be developed or revised as schools address the components of the program.

Please submit an original proposal with original signatures and three copies to the following address by **October 21, 2002**:

Grants Management Office
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
Turlington Building, Suite 332
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Technical assistance is available from the Department of Education during the proposal development process. You may contact Traci Cotton in the Office of School Improvement by e-mail or phone as follows: Traci.Cotton@fldoe.org (850) 487-1023 SunCom 277-1023.

BC:tc

Enclosure