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MEMORANDUM

TO: School Principals

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: August 28, 2008

SUBJECT: Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program

Welcome back to another challenging and exciting year with our Florida students! A new school year brings with it countless opportunities to continue our commitment to furthering student achievement and nurturing lifelong readers. Our library media programs will continue to provide literature-based activities that promote the enjoyment of reading and enhance instructional initiatives. Participation in the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award (SSYRA) Program is an excellent way to nurture lifelong reading and to motivate students in grades three through eight to read high interest contemporary literature.

The SSYRA Program continues to be co-sponsored by the Florida Department of Education's Library Media Services and the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME). As in past years, the *School Participation Form* is located on the SSYRA Program Internet site at http://myssyra.org/. Specific directions for accessing this form are being sent to your school library media specialists.

Throughout the year, please visit the SSYRA Program site for further information concerning voting procedures, curriculum activities, and promotional ideas. At the end of the year, a voting participation certificate, winning book posters, and SSYRA labels will be sent to the participating voting schools.

We look forward to your school's participation this year in this worthwhile reading motivation program. If you have any questions, please contact the Bureau of Instruction and Innovation.

FH/nt