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DPS: 03-038

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Kathy Mizereck
Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement
and Articulation

DATE: October 2, 2002

SUBJECT: COMPARABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TITLE I
PROGRAMS

Public Law 107-110 requires that any district receiving Title I funds must provide services to project schools which are comparable to those provided to non-project schools in that district. Comparable services to project schools must be funded from non-federal sources.

A district may select one of three options for meeting comparability requirements.

Option One:

This option involves filing a written assurance and collecting and maintaining evidence of the establishment and implementation of a district-wide salary schedule and required policies, utilizing the ESE-404 forms attached to the memorandum. Districts selecting Option One shall complete and submit forms A-1, A-2, C, the options page (DOE page 13 of 13) and documentation to verify expenditures for the implementation of policies for district-wide salary schedules, equivalence among schools in staff and equivalence among schools for curriculum materials and instructional supplies to demonstrate compliance with comparability requirements.

Option Two:

This option allows the district to compare the average number of students per instructional staff in each project school to the average in non-project schools in the district; a 10% variance is allowed. Districts selecting Option Two shall complete and submit forms A-1, A-2, and C in the attached packet to demonstrate compliance with comparability requirements.

Option Three:

This option allows the district to compare the average instructional staff salary expenditure per student in each project school with the average instructional staff salary expenditure per student in non-project schools in the district; a 10% variance is allowed. Districts selecting Option Three shall complete and submit forms A-1, C in the attached packet and a district developed form that depicts salary expenditure in project and non-project schools to demonstrate compliance with comparability requirements. When using instructional salaries per pupil, paid from state and local funds, staff salary differentials for years of employment shall not be included.

Regardless of the option selected, all original compliance forms shall be submitted no later than December 2, 2002, to Betty Applewhite, Title I/Migrant Programs, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 306, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400. ***The Auditor General will continue to cite districts that fail to submit comparability reports by the deadline noted above.*** However, the comparability requirement does not apply to districts that do not have more than one building per grade span.

It is essential that each district develop procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 1120A (c) of Public Law 103-382. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Betty G. Applewhite or Kwaku O. Frempon via email Betty.Applewhite@FLDOE.ORG or Kwaku.Frempon@FLDOE.ORG or by telephone at (850) 487-3530.

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Attachments