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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: February 4, 2011

SUBJECT: **Implementing the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Mathematics with Fidelity**

As we embark on a new year and enter the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year, we should reflect upon our experiences thus far with regards to the full implementation of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) for Mathematics. Change is sometimes accompanied by growing pains, and for some, the full implementation of the NGSSS for Mathematics has proven to be a challenge. Nonetheless, we must ensure that these standards are fully implemented with fidelity. With this goal in mind, we offer the following suggestions.

Be attentive and encourage your teachers to:

- Embrace the mathematical practices to be valued by every student.
 - Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
 - Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
 - Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
 - Model with mathematics.
 - Use appropriate tools strategically.
 - Attend to precision.
 - Look for and make use of structure.
 - Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Take inventory of the NGSSS benchmarks explored by students to date.
- Teach to mastery; the K-8 NGSSS contain fewer and more rigorous benchmarks which will allow students to develop a greater understanding of the mathematical concepts.
- Assess the individual needs of the students, as they will attain mastery of the various benchmarks at different rates and times.
- Identify rich problems that will afford the students an opportunity to experience mathematics in new and meaningful ways.
- Provide students an opportunity to generate their own ideas and think critically.
- Allow students to share their thinking and defend their solutions to challenging problems.
- Differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students (including those in need of acceleration).
- Reflect upon each lesson to ascertain what worked and what might be improved upon.
- Renew and nurture their love of learning.

The following resources may prove to be useful when providing teachers opportunities to enrich their content knowledge and level of expertise:

- Florida's standards database at www.floridastandards.org; including Curriculum Planning and Learning Management Systems (CPALMS) resources for quality lessons aligned to individual benchmarks;
- Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Item Specifications documents located at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcatis01.asp>;
- PROMiSE modules for implementing the NGSSS for Mathematics located at <http://www.flpromise.org/>;
- FCAT Explorer an online student tutorial aligned to the NGSSS for Mathematics located at <http://www.fcatexplorer.com/>; and
- Focus mini-assessments (two-five item assessments for each benchmark) also aligned to the NGSSS for Mathematics located at <http://www.fcatexplorer.com/home.asp>.

It is important that we remember Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Mathematics represent a rigorous set of nationally and internationally aligned standards in which the focus has been narrowed to allow our students an opportunity to attain a greater depth of understanding of the mathematical content. Florida's students will rise to the level of expectation afforded them and often surpass these expectations. *Florida is raising the floor and the ceiling on education!*

FH/tds

cc: Principals and Assistant Principals
Directors of Curriculum
Mathematics Specialists and Supervisors