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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Kathy Mizereck *KM*

DATE: October 17, 2002

SUBJECT: Update of Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Best Practices for Safety and Security

Back in August, the Department of Education sent DPS Memo #03-011 asking for your input in updating the Safety and Security Best Practices. Section 229.8348(1), Florida Statutes, requires that the OPPAGA Safety and Security Best Practices be updated annually. Responses have been received from the districts and have been reviewed by OPPAGA staff and the Partnership for School Safety and Security, as required by statute. The final version of the revised best practices should be available by mid-November.

Once the revised best practices are sent to you, they should be used this academic year to conduct the self-assessment of your school district's current safety and security practices. Per Section 229.8348, F.S., based on these self-assessment findings, the superintendent of each school district shall provide recommendations to the school board which identify strategies and activities that the school district should implement in order to improve school safety and security.

CHARLIE CRIST

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Each school board must receive the self-assessment results at a publicly-noticed school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the school board members discuss and take action on the report findings. Each superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and school board action to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days following the school board meeting. However, the school board meeting should be held on or by July 1, 2003.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Collins or Lorraine Allen at the phone numbers or e-mail addresses listed above.

KM/lha

cc: District Safe Schools Contacts
District Safe and Drug-Free Schools Contacts
District School Emergency Management Contacts
District Transportation Directors
District Coordinated School Health Contacts
District Drop-out Prevention Coordinators
District School Facilities Contacts
Partnership for School Safety and Security
John W. Turcotte, Director, OPPAGA