

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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DPS: 2011-188

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Gerard Robinson

DATE: November 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Invitation to Participate in the 2012 Commissioner's Academic Challenge

It is my pleasure to extend this invitation to your school district to participate in the 2012 *Commissioner's Academic Challenge (CAC)*, Florida's high school academic tournament. The competitions are scheduled for April 19 – 21, 2012, at Disney's Contemporary Resort. This marks our 27th year of celebrating the academic excellence of Florida's high school students.

Through a Florida Department of Education grant, generous contributions of corporations and the support of several Florida school districts, the funding needed to maintain this showcase of academic achievement is being put in place. The contributions will be used in the form of team grants to reduce the cost to each participating district. The exact amount of the reduction will be dependent upon the confirmation of the number of participating districts and upon securing additional funding; however, the per-district allocation is projected to be \$1,000. It is my goal for all 67 school districts to send their best and brightest minds to compete for the state champion title.

At the 26th Commissioner's Academic Challenge in 2011, the state champion and runner-up districts in each of three divisions were presented Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) trophies and medallions, and the first, second, and third place team members and coaches received Herff Jones championship rings. The National Sales Team of Herff Jones, Inc., and the host school districts of Pinellas and Polk have committed their support for the 27th tournament.

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November 21, 2011
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Please complete and return the *Intent* form found on the *Forms* page of the [Commissioner's Academic Challenge Website](#) to Lisa Rawls, Tournament Director at Lisa.Rawls@polk-fl.net.

Districts are asked to donate a minimum of \$2,000 each. *This contribution is in addition to the cost of sending the district team.* Please contact [Ms. Rawls](#) if your district is able to contribute.

I invite you to accept the *Commissioner's Academic Challenge* by sending your students to compete in our celebration of excellence in Florida education. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rawls at (863) 968-5168.

GR:kf