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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: June 20, 2013

SUBJECT: 2013 Legislation: House Bill 801

Contact Information

Curtis Jenkins
850-245-7851
Curtis.Jenkins@fldoe.org
DPS: 2013-88

The 2013 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 801, Certified School Counselors. Governor Rick Scott signed the bill on May 30, 2013.

This legislation replaces “guidance counselor” for the term “certified school counselor” to reflect current law requiring persons employed as school counselors to be certified, as set forth in State Board of Education Rule 6A-4.0181, Florida Administrative Code.

This name change reflects evolution in the purpose, content and practices of the school counseling profession in which school counselors provide much more than guidance services. Professional school counselors are certified/licensed educators with the minimum of a master’s degree in school counseling. They are uniquely qualified to address the academic, career and personal/social developmental needs of all students.

We appreciate your efforts in ensuring that certified school counselors continue to provide a comprehensive program of services to all students. If you have questions regarding the effects of this legislation, please contact Curtis Jenkins, school counseling consultant, at Curtis.Jenkins@fldoe.org or 850-245-7851.

PS/cj

PAM STEWART
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS