

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Contact Information

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850-245-0657

DPS: 2013-84

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: August 16, 2013

SUBJECT: Guidelines and Certification Regarding Constitutionally Protected Prayer in All Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Section 9524 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires that “each local educational agency, as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, certify in writing that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools,” as set forth in the attached *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*, published by the United States Department of Education (USED).

Please complete the attached certification and return it by Friday, September 20, 2013, to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Attention: Felicia A. Williams, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 644, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 or ofp@fldoe.org. The FDOE, in turn, will assure the USED that all local educational agencies have certifications on file.

Please contact Felicia A. Williams by phone at 850-245-0657 or via email at ofp@fldoe.org if you have questions regarding your certification.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

PS/faw

Attachments (2)