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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: September 6, 2013

SUBJECT: **The Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2013-124

In 2003, the Florida Legislature passed the *Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act*, s. 1002.23, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requiring school districts to provide parents with specific information about their child's educational progress; comprehensive information about their choices and opportunities for involvement in their child's education; and a framework for building and strengthening partnerships among parents, teachers, principals, school district superintendents and other personnel.

On April 29, 2013, Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 1096, *Repeal of Education Provisions*, into law. Section 4 of Senate Bill 1096 repeals subsections (4), (6) and (9) of s. 1002.23, F.S. as follows:

- Subsection (4): Eliminates the requirement for the Florida Department of Education to establish a parent response center,
- Subsection (6): Eliminates the requirement for school districts to submit rules on parent involvement to the department, and
- Subsection (9): Eliminates the requirement for the State Board of Education to annually review district compliance with this section.

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School districts are no longer required to submit the following documentation to the Florida Department of Education by October 1 of each year for compliance with the act:

- A copy of the school board rules developed to strengthen family involvement and family empowerment in the school district.
- A copy of the parent guide, which addresses what parents need to know about their child's educational progress and how parents can help their child succeed in school.
- A copy of the checklist provided to parents to assist with the parents' involvement in their child's educational progress.

If you have any questions related to the *Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act*, please contact Ms. Dianne Van der Meer by telephone at 850-245-9977 or via email at Dianne.VanderMeer@fldoe.org.

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GUIDELINES
for
The Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act

District School Board Rules

The school board rules shall be developed in collaboration with parents, school administrators, teachers, community partners and any other personnel deemed appropriate by the district. They shall address parental choices and responsibilities; links with community services; opportunities for parental involvement in the development, implementation and evaluation of family involvement programs; and opportunities for parents to participate on school advisory councils and in school volunteer programs and other activities.

Parent Guide

The parent guide must be understandable to students and parents; be distributed to all parents, students and school personnel at the beginning of each school year; be discussed at the beginning of each school year in meetings of students, parents and teachers; include information concerning services, opportunities, choices, academic standards and student assessment; and provide information on the importance of student health and available immunizations and vaccinations, including, but not limited to:

- (1) A recommended immunization schedule in accordance with United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations.
- (2) Detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms and transmission of meningococcal disease, in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The parent guide may be included as a part of the code of student conduct that is required in s. 1006.07(2), F.S.

The parent guide shall include but not be limited to:

- (a) Parent information regarding:
 - (1) Requirements for their child to be promoted to the next grade, as provided for in s. 1008.25, F.S.
 - (2) Progress of their child toward achieving state and district expectations for academic proficiency.
 - (3) Assessment results, including report cards and progress reports.
 - (4) Qualifications of their child's teachers.
 - (5) School entry requirements, including required immunizations and the recommended immunization schedule.
- (b) Services available for parents and their children, such as family literacy services; mentoring, tutorial and other academic reinforcement programs; college planning, academic advisement and student counseling services; and after-school programs.

- (c) Opportunities for parental participation, such as parenting classes, adult education, school advisory councils and school volunteer programs.
- (d) Opportunities for parents to learn about rigorous academic programs that may be available for their child, such as honors programs, dual enrollment, advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, International General Certificate of Secondary Education (pre-AICE), Advanced International Certificate of Education, Florida Virtual High School courses and accelerated access to postsecondary education.
- (e) Educational choices, as provided for in s. 1002.20(6), F.S. and Florida tax credit scholarships, as provided for in s. 1002.395, F.S.
- (f) Classroom and test accommodations available for students with disabilities.
- (g) School board rules, policies and procedures for student promotion and retention, academic standards, student assessment, courses of study, instructional materials and contact information for school and district offices.
- (h) Resources for information on student health and other available resources for parents.

Checklist

The checklist shall be provided each school year to all parents of students in kindergarten through grade 12 and shall focus on academics (especially reading), high expectations for students, citizenship and communication. The checklist shall address parental actions that

- (a) Strengthen the child's academic progress, especially in the area of reading.
- (b) Strengthen the child's citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others.
- (c) Strengthen the child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals.
- (d) Place a strong emphasis on the communication between the school and the home.