

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Pam Stewart
Commissioner of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: October 25, 2013

SUBJECT: **Invitation to Participate in the 2014 Commissioner's Academic Challenge**

Contact Information

Kathleen Forsyth

850-245-0695

Kathleen.Forsyth@fldoe.org

DPS: 2013-159

It is my pleasure to invite your school district to participate in the 2014 Commissioner's Academic Challenge (CAC), Florida's high school academic tournament. The competition is scheduled for April 10-12, 2014, at Disney's Contemporary Resort. This marks our 29th year of celebrating the academic excellence of Florida's high school students.

At the 28th Commissioner's Academic Challenge in 2013, the state champion and runner-up districts in each of the three divisions were presented Florida High School Athletic Association trophies and medallions, and the first, second and third place team members and coaches received Herff Jones championship rings.

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 gradually being assembled. The contributions will be used in the form of team grants to reduce the cost to each participating district. The exact amount of each grant will depend upon the number of participating districts and the total amount of secured funding; however, the per-district allocation is projected to be \$1,300. It is my hope that these grants will allow all 67 school districts to send their best and brightest minds to compete for the state champion title.

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Ms. Lisa Rawls, tournament director for Polk County School Board, will be soliciting critical question-writing support from district contacts this year, and I would appreciate your assisting her in this regard. Please complete and return the Intent to Host A Question Writing Session form found on the **Forms** page of the Commissioner's Academic Challenge Website: <http://www.academic-challenge.org/cac/forms.html> to Ms. Rawls at Lisa.Rawls@polk-fl.net.

You may also register your team by completing the Intent form found on the **Forms** page of the Commissioner's Academic Challenge Website and returning it to Ms. Rawls, tournament director, via email at Lisa.Rawls@polk-fl.net.

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 or wish to become a sponsoring district by making a donation of \$2,000, please contact Ms. Rawls by telephone at 863-968-5168.

PS/kf