



State Board of Education

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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **Designation of Schools of Excellence**

Contact Information:

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The State Board of Education will be presented the list of Schools of Excellence for designation at their October 18, 2017, meeting. This is a new program created by the 2017 Florida Legislature. Districts with a School of Excellence are listed below. The list of schools will be posted with the board meeting materials on October 11, 2017, at www.fldoe.org/board/meetings.

Section 1003.631, Florida Statutes, requires the State Board of Education to designate a school as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80th percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high and combination) for at least two of the last three school years.

To be eligible, schools had to receive a grade of A or B in each of the most recent three school years (2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17) and had to rank at the 80th percentile or higher for their school type for at least two of the last three years. There are 347 elementary, 116 middle, 96 high and 84 combination schools that qualified as Schools of Excellence. Qualifying schools shall retain the designation for up to three years, at which point the designation may be renewed.

A School of Excellence will have the following administrative flexibilities outlined in the law:

- exemption from any provision of law or rule that expressly requires a minimum period of daily or weekly instruction in reading;
- principal autonomy as provided under section 1012.28(8), Florida Statutes;
- instructional personnel may substitute one school year of employment at a School of Excellence for 20 inservice points, up to 60 inservice points total in a five-year cycle, toward the renewal of a professional certificate;
- exemption from compliance with school district policies or procedures establishing times for the start and end of the school day; and
- calculation of class size compliance based on the average number of students at the school level.

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Districts with a School of Excellence:

- Alachua
- Baker
- Bay
- Brevard
- Broward
- Charlotte
- Citrus
- Clay
- Collier
- Columbia
- Dade
- Duval
- Escambia
- Flagler
- Gadsden
- Gilchrist
- Hardee
- Hernando
- Hillsborough
- Indian River
- Jackson
- Lee
- Leon
- Manatee
- Marion
- Martin
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Okaloosa
- Orange
- Osceola
- Palm Beach
- Pasco
- Pinellas
- Polk
- Putnam
- Santa Rosa
- Sarasota
- Seminole
- St. Johns
- St. Lucie
- Sumter
- Volusia
- Walton
- FAU Lab School
- FSU Lab School – Pembroke Pines
- UF Lab School

Congratulations to these districts and schools.

HL/he