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MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Kathy Mizereck, Deputy Chancellor for Student Achievement and Articulation

Date: December 18, 2002

Subject: **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MATERIALS FOR STUDENT PROGRESSION**

The 2002 Legislature revised the Florida School Code and made changes to the requirements for school district student progression plans. These changes will be in effect for student promotion for the 2002-2003 school year. The department disseminated specific information regarding the changes in DPS Memo #03-024, dated August 26, 2002.

Staff members continue to develop and identify technical assistance materials to assist the schools and districts in implementing the statutory changes regarding student progression. Please find enclosed the following:

- Two sample notices to parents, in English and Spanish, as required by section 1008.25(5)(c), Florida Statutes.
- List of diagnostic instruments appropriate for primary and secondary levels that meet psychometric standards to address the requirements in section 1008.25(4)(b), Florida Statutes.

CHARLIE CRIST

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- “Flow Chart for Promotion/Retention of Third Grade Students” that outlines the requirements in section 1008.25, Florida Statutes.
- *Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read*, developed by the Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement. This document, designed by teachers for teachers, summarizes the research about how to successfully teach children to read. It provides analysis and discussion in the five areas of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension. Each section defines the skill, reviews the evidence from research, suggests implications for classroom instruction, describes proven strategies for teaching reading skills, and addresses frequently asked questions. To order additional copies of this document, please contact the National Institute for Literacy at 800/228-8813 or email at edpubsorders@aspensys.com. The booklet can also be downloaded at the Partnership for Reading web site at www.nifl.gov/nifl/publications.html.
- *A Child Becomes a Reader: Kindergarten to Grade 3*, developed to provide parents with ideas about how they can help their child become a reader. We strongly encourage you to include this booklet with the notification letter to parents of children who are identified as having a deficiency in reading. To order additional copies of this document, please contact the National Institute for Literacy at 800/228-8813 or email at edpubsorders@edpubs.org. The booklet can also be downloaded at the Partnership for Reading web site at www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding student progression, please contact Mike Tremor or Mary Jo Butler. If you need information regarding strategies for teaching reading, please contact Ruth Gumm-Shearon.

KM:mjbr

Enclosures