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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: June 11, 2021

SUBJECT: **Amendment to Rule 6A-1.094124, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Required Instruction Planning and Reporting**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2021-66

The State Board of Education amended Rule 6A-1.094124, F.A.C., on June 10, 2021, to provide clarification on what efficient and faithful teaching means with respect to the topics of required instruction listed in Section 1003.42(2), Florida Statutes (F.S.).

The text of the amendment reads:

(3) As provided in Section 1003.42(2), F.S., members of instructional staff in public schools must teach the required instruction topics efficiently and faithfully, using materials that meet the highest standards of professionalism and historical accuracy.

(a) Efficient and faithful teaching of the required topics must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards.

(b) Instruction on the required topics must be factual and objective, and may not suppress or distort significant historical events, such as the Holocaust, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the civil rights movement and the contributions of women, African American and Hispanic people to our country, as already provided in Section 1003.42(2), F.S. Examples of theories that distort historical events and are inconsistent with State Board approved standards include the denial or minimization of the Holocaust, and the teaching of Critical Race Theory, meaning the theory that racism is not merely the product of prejudice, but that racism is embedded in American society and its legal systems in order to uphold the supremacy of white persons. Instruction may not utilize material from the 1619 Project and may not define American history as something other than the creation of a new nation based largely on universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence. Instruction must include the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments.

(c) Efficient and faithful teaching further means that any discussion is appropriate for the age and maturity level of the students, and teachers serve as facilitators for student discussion and do not share their personal views or attempt to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view that is inconsistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards.

JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The amendment and related documents are posted on the State Board of Education meetings webpage at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/state-board-of-edu/meetings/2021/2021-06-10/>.

If you have questions, please contact Michael DiPierro in the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support at 850-245-9773 or by email at Michael.DiPierro@fldoe.org.

JO/md

cc: School District Assistant Superintendents
School District Social Studies Supervisors
School District Principals