FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Dr. Eric J. Smith Commissioner of Education



CONTACT INFORMATION

Jessie.Simmons@fldoe.org

Jessie M. Simmons

(850) 245-0682 **DPS: 2009-182**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: November 6, 2009

SUBJECT: 2009-2010 TITLE I COMPARABILITY REPORT

Public Law 107-110, Section 1120A(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides that a Local Educational Agency (LEA) may receive Title I, Part A funds only if it uses state and local funds to provide services in Title I schools that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to the services provided in schools that are not receiving Title I funds. If the LEA serves all of its schools with Title I funds, the LEA must use state and local funds to provide services that, taken as a whole, are substantially comparable in each Title I school.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) requires that LEAs demonstrate compliance with this requirement on an annual basis by submitting comparability calculations to FDOE. Each LEA must submit calculations for all schools, including charter schools, in the fall of each school year. All LEAs are required to submit the comparability report, including any LEA that may be exempt from the comparability requirements.

Each LEA must utilize FDOE's online Comparability Reporting System to submit their comparability report. Reports are due to the Department by December 4, 2009. Local Educational Agencies that identify non-comparable Title I schools must take corrective actions upon such determinations, and must institute the necessary changes to ensure that all Title I schools are comparable by the start of the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

Your staff may access the online Reporting System at: https://app1.fldoe.org/bsa/TitleIComparability/, and guidance for completing the online Report at: http://www.fldoe.org/bsa/title1/pubs_data.asp.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Attached is a Technical Assistance Paper related to Comparability of Services for Title I Schools that addresses federal requirements and the process for making these determinations.

If you or your staff have questions regarding this process, please contact Jessie Simmons, Program Specialist, Bureau of Student Assistance, at: Jessie.Simmons@fldoe.org, or (850) 245-0682.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to ensuring that all students have access to the highest quality educational programs.

FH/jsm

Attachment