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**Contact Information**
Courtney Walker
Lynn Vinson
(850) 245-0480
Courtney.Walker@fldoe.org
Lynn.Vinson@fldoe.org
**DPS: 2010-175**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO**: District School Superintendents

**FROM**: Dr. Eric J. Smith

**DATE**: September 24, 2010

**SUBJECT**: **Professional Development Opportunity: *Statewide Online Tobacco Prevention and Intervention Teacher Training Project***

In the continued effort to reduce and prevent tobacco use among school-aged children, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) is working in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County to provide a statewide online tobacco prevention education course. This distance learning course is a professional development opportunity for all public school K-12 teachers and guidance staff scheduled to begin **October 1, 2010.** There is no cost to your district instructional personnel who participate in the online course, and they will have 24 hour access seven days a week to complete the course. This interactive course will include articles, videos, reports, surveys, discussion boards, and quizzes on topics related to tobacco prevention. Upon completing the course, participants will have increased knowledge and skills in tobacco prevention education. Furthermore, participants will receive effective teaching strategies and integrated approaches to delivering tobacco prevention education in science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, health, and physical education. Districts may award participants who complete the course up to 60 in-service points toward teacher recertification.

For more information, visit www.tobaccopreventiontraining.org. You may also contact Courtney Walker, Grants Manager, or Lynn Vinson, Tobacco Prevention Education Specialist, DOE Office of Healthy Schools, at courtney.walker@fldoe.org and lynn.vinson@fldoe.org or via telephone at (850) 245-0480.

EJS/lv

cc: District Curriculum Coordinator
District Health Education Curriculum Coordinators
District Safe Schools Coordinators
District Guidance Counseling Coordinators
K-12 Public School Principals