

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Contact Information

Sara Dixon
ofp@fldoe.org
(850) 245-0657
DPS: 2012-129

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: August 17, 2012

SUBJECT: Guidelines and Certification Regarding Constitutionally Protected Prayer in All Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Section 9524 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires that each Local Educational Agency (LEA), as a condition of receiving ESEA funds, certify in writing that it has no policy that prevents, or otherwise denies participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in public schools as set forth in the attached "Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools," published by the U.S. Department of Education (USED).

Please complete the attached certification and return it by Friday, September 21, 2012, to the Office of Federal Programs, Florida Department of Education, 325 West Gaines Street, Room 644, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 or ofp@fldoe.org. The Florida Department of Education, in turn, will assure the USED that all LEAs have certifications on file.

You may contact the Office of Federal Programs by phone at (850) 245-0657 or via email at ofp@fldoe.org if you have questions regarding your certification.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PS/sd

Attachments (2)

PAM STEWART
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS