

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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### **Contact Persons**

Name: Mary Jo Butler  
Phone: (850) 245-0479  
Suncom: 205-0479  
Email:  
[maryjo.butler@fldoe.org](mailto:maryjo.butler@fldoe.org)

Name: Mike Tremor  
Phone: (850) 245-0423  
Suncom: 205-0423  
Email:  
[michael.tremor@fldoe.org](mailto:michael.tremor@fldoe.org)

**DPS: 04- 094**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** Jim Warford

**DATE:** April 5, 2004

**SUBJECT: FLORIDA'S GUIDE TO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

The 2003 Legislature amended several laws related to high school graduation requirements. The purpose of these amendments was to provide students with accelerated high school graduation options, align the number of university admission credits with these accelerated options, and modify the general requirements for high school graduation.

Department staff representing the K-20 system collaborated in the development and dissemination of technical assistance materials and resources designed to provide guidance to schools and districts related to high school graduation. Please find attached *Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation*, a brochure designed to provide valuable information to parents and students regarding high school graduation, acceleration programs and advanced coursework, comparison of high school graduation programs, requirements for state university and community college admission, and requirements for Bright Futures.

**JIM WARFORD**  
*K – 12 Chancellor*

District School Superintendents  
April 5, 2004  
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Under separate cover, we will distribute multiple copies of this brochure to your school district for students in eighth through tenth grade. Please find a camera-ready copy of the brochure attached so that you may print additional copies of the brochure. A .pdf version of the brochure can be found on the Department website at [www.myfloridaeducation.com/commhome/newgrad/gradguide.pdf](http://www.myfloridaeducation.com/commhome/newgrad/gradguide.pdf). We hope that these materials will support your district's academic advisement program and enable students and their parents to make informed decisions regarding postsecondary education and career plans.

Additional information for counselors, parents, and students can also be obtained through the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students website ([www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org)) that includes high school planning, career planning, college planning, and high school academic evaluations. The *Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook* is also available at [FACTS.org](http://FACTS.org) and is a comprehensive reference to postsecondary education in Florida.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding K12 curriculum, instruction, academic advisement, or high school graduation requirements, please contact Mary Jo Butler or Michael Tremor. If you have questions regarding community colleges, please contact Heather Sherry at (850) 245-0407 or by email at [heather.sherry@fldoe.org](mailto:heather.sherry@fldoe.org). If you have questions regarding state university admission requirements, please contact Nell Kelly at (850) 245-0467 or by email at [nell.kelly@fldoe.org](mailto:nell.kelly@fldoe.org) or Lynda Page via email at [lynda.page@fldoe.org](mailto:lynda.page@fldoe.org). Should you need information regarding career and technical education, please contact Rose Raynak at (850) 245-9020 or via email at [rose.raynak@fldoe.org](mailto:rose.raynak@fldoe.org).

JW/mlf

cc: Student Services Directors  
Guidance Supervisors  
Middle School Principals  
High School Principals  
Middle School Counselors  
High School Counselors