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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 9, 2005

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Linda Champion

SUBJECT: Award of Bid for School Buses (DOE Bid Number 2005-15)

Attached please find the Pricing and Ordering Information for School Buses 2005 bid guide for Department of Education's bid number 2005-15 as established on May 12, 2005, from bids received. The award of bid DOE No. 2005-15 was made in accordance with applicable state purchasing laws and rules. Bids were received and awarded on Types A, C, and D complete school buses and optional equipment.

Buses ordered under **Plan A** are required to be produced and completed by June 9, 2006. Due to manufacturing requirements and lead time, **purchase orders for these buses must be received by the Department no later than October 24, 2005.** Buses ordered under **Plan B** are required to be produced and completed by November 28, 2006. Purchase orders for these buses must be received by the Department no later than March 24, 2006.

The contract requirements for the above delivery dates are insured by performance bonds that were required from the manufacturers. Provisions for per-day liquidated damages for late delivery are specified in the contract.

All of the above timelines for ordering and delivery and other applicable ordering information (base prices, options, etc.) are included herein. The timelines and ordering instructions are on pages 1-9.

The Department will begin processing purchase orders immediately for buses without air conditioning. **Purchase orders for air conditioned school buses will be accepted and processed upon the successful performance testing of the unit's air conditioning system.** Districts will be notified by September 9, 2005, of the results of air conditioning performance testing. At that time purchase orders for those units that successfully pass the performance testing will be accepted and processed by the Department. Districts are advised not to begin the purchase order process for any air conditioned school bus units until they have been informed of the results of the performance test.

The bid includes a provision for awards to multiple suppliers within each bus configuration. All approved suppliers that were within ten percent of the low bid for each configuration received an award. This system provides flexibility to each school district in determining the type and manufacturer of the equipment that best fits its needs.

All Types A, C, and D school buses provided by all bidders are considered complete school buses and require just one purchase order. An explanation of how to complete the purchase orders is provided on pages 2-5 of the Pricing and Ordering guide.

Please note that there are three different providers of most sizes of Type C school buses. These have been divided into Type C subsections in the Pricing and Ordering Information. The first subsection displays **parent bore** engine configurations (Thomas and Blue Bird Vision), while the second subsection displays **wet sleeve** engine configurations (IC Corporation).

Page 9 of the Pricing and Ordering guide provides an example for completing purchase orders. Please note that Thomas Built Buses must now be ordered from the appropriate designated dealer. See page 8 of the Pricing and Ordering guide for district listings and a map to find which Thomas dealer has been designated for your district.

If you have questions or need any other assistance with the school bus ordering process, please call Ms. Terri Egler or Mr. Bill Schroyer at (850) 245-9795 or Suncom 205-9795.

CFH: wrs

Attachment: Pricing and Ordering Information for School Buses 2005 bid guide

cc: Transportation Directors
Service Managers
Florida School Bus bidders and representatives