

Memorandum Number 02-30

July 18, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community College Presidents
FROM: J. David Armstrong, Jr.
SUBJECT: Help Needed in Implementation of School Assistance Plus Plans

Secretary Jim Horne has charged selected school officials and educational specialists to step up efforts to improve student achievement as demonstrated on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). In his message to participants at the Assistance Plus (A+) Summit held in Tampa on July 11-13, the Secretary made it clear that every possible resource was needed to support this effort. The ultimate aim is to ensure that students in K-12 schools will be able to demonstrate grade-appropriate attainment of reading, writing and mathematics skills. Currently, the most critical schools are in Escambia, Dade, Orange and Palm Beach counties. However, help is needed throughout the state in districts with D schools, in the 19 districts with F schools and in districts with FF schools.

I applaud you for the steps you already have taken through partnerships with the district schools and through the documented successes of our College Reach-Out Programs. Yet, there is more that community colleges can do. I request that you provide our office, via email, the following information:

- An inventory of your college's current support activities with the Assistance Plus effort
- Specific suggestions from your institution that we can quickly implement as leaders and supporters of this initiative

I have attached a list of ideas and critical needs that have surfaced. Please consider these suggestions, provide additional ideas, and communicate plans for prompt implementation.

Please submit this information, via e-mail, **by Tuesday, July 30, 2002** to Ms. Deloris M. Massey at Deloris@flccs.org. Contact Ms. Massey with questions at SC 278-1721, extension 116.

JDA/dmm

Attachments

c: Theresa Klebach
 Sylvia Fleishman
 Members, Council on Instructional Affairs
 Members, Council of Student Affairs
 College Reach-Out Program Directors/Coordinators

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Assistance Plus Ideas and Needs

Some of the specific areas of need and ideas that may help to support A+ team efforts in the districts are:

- Individualized Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Instruction
- More Reading, Writing and Mathematics Tutors
- Specially Tailored Tutorial Programs (No fees or tuition required of collegiates who help)
- Accelerated, Condensed Training Program for “Surplus” Education Major in Reading Specialist Areas
- Providing Credit to Community College Students Who Tutor in K-12 System
- Specially Packaged Instructional Activities to Accelerate Learning for Struggling Students
- Teacher Training/Certification
- More active School Advisory Council members
- Parent and Community Involvement Specialists
- ESOL Specialists
- More Volunteers to Join A+ Teams (8 hrs per month for 2 years)
- Strengthened K-20 Partnerships
- Motivational/Disciplinary Specialists and Mentors
- Workforce Development Specialists
- Technology Specialists
- Other Effective Ideas and Successful Practices

It is important to remember that the School Improvement Plan must drive all district level activities.

For additional information about the Assistance Plus Program, visit the Florida School Grades 2001-02 website at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/schoolgrades>