FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CHARLIE CRIST
Commissioner

BETTY COXE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Interested Parties**

FROM: **Betty Coxe**

DATE: **April 12, 2002**

SUBJECT: **Workshops on New Educator Certification Examinations**

The Department of Education is pleased to announce four regional briefing meetings concerning passing scores for several new educator certification examinations. The Department's purpose is to provide information and seek additional input from all interested parties relative to the recommended passing scores for these new tests.

The new tests are: (1) a comprehensive Exceptional Student Education (ESE) subject area exam for grades K-12, (2) a Kindergarten – Grade 6 (K-6) subject area exam, and (3) the new General Knowledge test. The ESE exam replaces five categorical exceptional education exams including Emotionally Handicapped, Mentally Handicapped, Specific Learning Disabilities, Varying Exceptionalities, and Physically Impaired; the K-6 exam replaces the Elementary Education 1-6 and the Primary Education K-3 exams; and the General Knowledge test replaces the CLAST, effective July 1, 2002.

We are nearing the initial implementation phase of the major recommendations in "The Review of Educator Certification Report" of January 2000. The Legislative directives that implemented the Report were enacted in Spring 2000 and include streamlining the certification structure and processes and reducing the number of subject coverages. In January 2002, the State Board of Education adopted the competencies and skills for the two new subject area exams and the general knowledge test and, in March, approved the subject specialization requirements for the ESE and K-6 certification coverages. The next step is for the Board to establish transitional passing scores for these three new examinations.

The Department expresses appreciation and sincere thanks to the many individuals throughout the state who participated in the various test development, validation, and standard setting activities for the implementation of these new examinations. All of this work was necessary to achieve the State's goals of having a streamlined certification model and rigorous certification examinations aligned to the Sunshine State Standards for students.

The briefing meetings have been scheduled for the times and locations shown below. Please share this information with relevant individuals.

April 17, 2002 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Room 1703 Turlington Building 325 West Gaines Street Tallahassee, FL
April 18, 2002 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Board Room Duval County School Board 1701 Prudential Drive Jacksonville, FL
April 18, 2002 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Cafeteria Palm Beach County School District 3300 Forest Hill Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL
April 18, 2002 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Room B-213 Pinellas County School Board Administration Building 301 - 4th Street, SW Largo, FL

If you are unable to attend, please send your written comments to:

Dr. Ken Loewe
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325 W. Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
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The Bureau of Educator Certification will be distributing technical assistance papers soon. Thank you for your interest and assistance.