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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
District School Assistant Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.

DATE: November 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Invitation to Annual Music Education In-Service Clinic-Conference

Your district is invited to send music teachers to participate in the upcoming conference sponsored by the Florida Music Educators' Association (FMEA) in cooperation with the Florida Department of Education. Conference activities begin at the Tampa Convention Center on Wednesday afternoon, January 9, and end with a series of All-State concerts on Saturday, January 12, 2008.

The FMEA In-Service Clinic-Conference is the largest professional development conference for music educators held in any state east of the Mississippi River. The FMEA conference will offer more than 200 individual workshops and seminars for a variety of topics ranging from FCAT skills to assessment in the classroom and issues related to special learners.

Pre-Conference Sessions
The Wednesday afternoon sessions (January 9, 2008) are focused on "Music Literacy: Beyond the Notes on the Page." In addition to the opening session, there will be eight sessions that address literacy strategies, issues related to special learners, music as intervention for struggling readers, and assessment. Breakout sessions include:

- Literacy: Music's Hidden Agenda
- Peer mentoring: Utilizing music students' exceptional qualities to reach special learners and open creative inclusion music opportunities
- Expanding the Music Curriculum: A Win, Win
- Music Involvement for the Special Learner
- Lift Every Voice for Literacy: A Singing and Reading Approach

- World Music Drumming Curriculum: Developing Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Character Education Skills through the Academic Study of Music
- The FMEA Assessment Project. How far we have come and where we are going

Keynote Speaker
Sir Ken Robinson will be the keynote speaker for the Opening General Membership Meeting on January 10. He is a world-renowned speaker who was voted *Business Speaker of the Year* by more than 200 global and European countries before moving to the United States. He was knighted in 2003 by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding achievements as a leader in creativity, education, and the arts.

Sessions and Vendors
Technology: Hardware and software applications are a significant track of the conference and teachers will have the opportunity to have "hands-on" experiences with current applications and ask questions of expert presenters. Some of the session titles include: Podcasting in the Music Classroom; Composing Across the Curriculum; Media and Copyright Law; Recording Digital Audio; and three sessions of Music Software Review.

In response to the fine arts credit requirement for high school graduation, a number of general music sessions will address and explore opportunities for students not engaged in band, orchestra, and chorus. Recognizing that many students will need a year in the Arts, and knowing that a significant number would like to explore music, there will be sessions on teaching guitar, steel drums, and world-music drumming. The technology sessions noted above also include applications for electronic composition and sound engineering, which are often favorites of high school students.

Additionally, the conference includes a comprehensive exhibition hall of vendors – publishers, manufacturers, fund-raisers, colleges/universities, military recruiters, and more. Music educators prepared to make purchases from the exhibition floor can often find substantial discounts on a variety of equipment.

General Information
The conference is designed so every music educator – new or experienced – will find sessions of high interest. Sessions are also designed to support the issues foremost on every school campus in the state, particularly those related to literacy and other FCAT goals. The Elementary, Middle School, and High School All-State rehearsals and concerts are also an exciting and instructional part of the conference.

As defined by the *No Child Left Behind Act* – music, as part of the Arts, is a core-curriculum subject. Under that definition, music educators are eligible to receive federal Title II funds for professional development. Music educators in many school districts are rarely served by professional development opportunities that address the specific discipline, which this conference can provide.

Information about registration and lodging is available on-line at http://www.flmusiced.org/. **Pre-Registration Deadlines:** The postmark deadline for paper pre-registration is November 28, 2007; on-line pre-registration ends at 11:59 pm on December 3, 2007.