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MEMORANDUM

CONTACT INFORMATION
Nikolai Vitti
Nikolai.vitti@fldoe.org
(850) 245-0509
DPS: 2010-13

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: January 14, 2010

SUBJECT: **Memorandum Retraction: Alternative Schools and ESE Centers in Differentiated Accountability**

Please be informed that this memorandum is meant to serve as a retraction for the memorandum, "Alternative Schools and ESE Centers in Differentiated Accountability" which was released on November 16, 2009, and to clarify how these schools fit into Differentiated Accountability (DA) generally and into the Intervene Category of DA.

All schools, including Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Centers and alternative schools, are eligible to be placed within (DA) provided under Section 1008.33, F.S. More specifically, where an alternative school chooses to receive a school grade, rather than an improvement rating under the provisions of Section 1008.341, F.S., it is included in DA. Exceptional Student Education Centers are included in DA, even where the Centers do not meet the criteria for the award of a school grade, as set forth in Rule 6A – 1.09981, F.A.C., due to the fact that the Centers serve students who participate in the Florida Alternative Assessment in lieu of the FCAT.

While ESE Centers fall under DA and are thus eligible to receive the support and interventions available under DA, ESE Centers are unlikely to be classified as Intervene schools. This is because the Intervene Category requires the award of a school grade based upon Section 1008.33 (4)(b), F.S., and as noted above, ESE Centers are unlikely to receive a school grade.

Alternative schools that choose to receive a school grade may be placed within the Intervene Category if their data meet the criteria to be placed within the Intervene Category. Like all schools in DA, treatment of alternative schools will be individualized and take into account the unique characteristics of the school.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Nikolai Vitti, Deputy Chancellor of School Improvement and Student Achievement at (850) 245-0509 or via e-mail at nikolai.vitti@fldoe.org.

FH/nvt