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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: August 31, 2010

SUBJECT: **Guidelines for School Districts on the Use of Service Animals by Students With Disabilities**

The Florida Department of Education is pleased to provide the attached guidance to school districts with regard to the use of service animals by students with disabilities.

The document provides guidance and a sample template addressing the rights and responsibilities of public schools in decisions regarding the use of service animals in schools.

It outlines areas for consideration as local guidelines for practices are developed. Decisions on accommodations or modifications for students with disabilities should be made on an individual basis in order to insure the student's access to public school programs.

For questions regarding the sample template, please contact Ms. Bettye Hyle, Student Services Team Leader, via email at Bettye.Hyle@fldoe.org or by telephone at (850) 245-7851.

FH/bh

Attachment

cc: Exceptional Student Education Directors
Student Services Directors
Section 504 Administrators