

September 12, 2002

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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03-15

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Wayne V. Pierson

SUBJECT: Spending Flexibility for 2002-03

Senate Bill 20-E, Section 5, as enacted by Special Session E of the 2002 Legislature, grants flexibility to each school district for the 2002-03 fiscal year to amend the district's operating budget by transferring funds from specific categorical programs. The school board is required to find and declare in a resolution adopted at a regular meeting that the funds received for any of the following programs are urgently needed to maintain board-specified academic classroom instruction. Under this resolution, the school board may consider and approve an amendment to the school district's operating budget transferring the identified amount of funds. The categorical programs for which spending flexibility was granted are:

- Student Transportation
- Inservice Educational Personnel Training
- Safe Schools
- Public School Technology
- Supplemental Academic Instruction

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Although Senate Bill 20-E granted spending flexibility for Teacher Recruitment and Retention, the program was not funded in 2002-03. However, because this program was granted flexibility authority in both 2001-02 and 2002-03, any 2001-02 carryforward funds would have authority in the current fiscal year. This also applies to 2001-02 carryforward funds from each of the categorical programs listed above.

Please be aware that the Florida Teacher Lead program was not included in Senate Bill 20-E; therefore, carryforward funds from 2001-02 for this program do not have spending flexibility in 2002-03.

In addition to the requirement for a resolution, district school boards are required to report the amount of funds transferred from each of the categorical programs in the 2002-03 annual financial report to the Department of Education. Instructions for submitting this information will be provided at a later time by the Office of Funding and Financial Reporting.

In order that we may respond to legislative inquiries regarding districts' utilization of spending flexibility, please provide a copy of the adopted flexibility resolution for 2002-03 and the related budget amendment to the Office of Funding and Financial Reporting as soon as possible following the school board's action. The documents may be faxed to SC 292-6742 or (850) 922-6742 or mailed to:

Department of Education
824 Turlington Building
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

WVP/LC/bb

cc: District Finance Officers