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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: October 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Policy Requirements

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2010-195

In the 2010 Legislative Session, Florida's legislature passed and Governor Crist signed into law, the creation of Section 1006.148, F.S., effective July 1, 2010, related to teen dating violence and abuse. Included within this new section, are school board requirements for the development, adoption, and implementation of a policy preventing teen dating violence and abuse, as well as requirements for providing training for teachers, staff, and school administrators to implement the policy. To access the law, please click on the link below:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&SubMenu=1&App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=1006.148&URL=1000-1099/1006/Sections/1006.148.html

In compliance with the new statute, the Florida Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools has developed a model policy for districts to use as a guide in meeting this requirement related to teen dating violence and abuse. The model policy and training requirements are effective January 1, 2011.

Section 1006.148, F.S., Dating violence and abuse prohibited.-

1) Each district school board shall adopt and implement a dating violence and abuse policy. The policy shall:

- (a) Prohibit dating violence and abuse by any student on school property, during a school-sponsored activity, or during school-sponsored transportation.

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(b) Provide procedures for responding to such incidents of dating violence or abuse, including accommodations for students experiencing dating violence or abuse.

(c) Define dating violence and abuse and provide for a teen dating violence and abuse component in the health education curriculum, according to s. 1003.42(2)(n), with emphasis on prevention education.

(d) Be implemented in a manner that is integrated with a school district's discipline policies.

2) By January 1, 2011, the Department of Education shall develop a model policy to serve as a guide for district school boards in the development of the dating violence and abuse policy described in subsection (1).

3) Each district school board shall provide training for teachers, staff, and school administrators to implement this section.

If you have questions regarding the Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Policy requirements, please contact Brooks Rumenik, Director, Office of Safe Schools, by phone at (850) 245-0416, or via e-mail at Brooks.Rumenik@fldoe.org. We hope this information will be helpful in ensuring that your district complies with this new legislation.

FH/br

cc: District Health Education Coordinators
District Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinators
District Safety and Security Contacts
District Student Support Services Contacts