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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: May 17, 2024

SUBJECT: **House Bill 931 – School Chaplains**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2024-89

On April 18, 2024, Governor DeSantis signed [House Bill 931](#) creating section (s.) 1012.461, Florida Statutes (F.S.), which allows school districts and charter schools to adopt a policy to authorize volunteer school chaplains to provide supports, services or programs to students as assigned by the district school board or charter school governing board.

The school district or charter school policy must, at a minimum:

- Describe the supports, services or programs that volunteer school chaplains may be assigned.
- Require that principals of schools with a volunteer school chaplain inform all parents of the availability of such supports, services or programs.
- Require written parental consent before a student participates in or receives supports, services or programs provided by a volunteer school chaplain. Parents must be permitted to select a volunteer school chaplain from the list provided by the school district, which must include the chaplain's religious affiliation, if any.

Each volunteer school chaplain must meet the background screening requirements of [s. 1012.465, F.S.](#), prior to working in direct contact with students.

Additionally, each school district or charter school that adopts a volunteer school chaplain policy must publish the list of volunteer school chaplains, including any religious affiliation, on the school district or charter school's website.

Thank you for your attention to these important changes.

PB/rk

cc: School District Human Resources Directors
School District Volunteer Coordinators

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS