

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 17, 2004

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Study on Middle Grades Reform

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Student academic performance data collected from FCAT score results and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) have clearly demonstrated the urgent need for reforming our middle schools. Additionally, these data have made the case for beginning our reform with reading, based upon the marked academic improvements of our students in the primary grades since the Just Read, Florida! has been in place.

Senate Bill 354 (2004), Public School Educational Instruction, required specific action by Florida educational leaders to reform middle grades education. The bill requires two studies to be conducted: one that seeks to improve specifically reading and language arts courses and instruction, and a second, comprehensive study to determine what must be done to improve the overall rigor and effectiveness of middle grades education in preparing students for high school.

The focus of this presentation is to provide information about the status and work plan for the comprehensive middle grades reform study.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Senate Bill 354

Summary of 2004 Middle Grades Reform Legislation

Middle grades reform study calendar, study components, way of work, and meeting plan

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Kim McDougal, K-12 Deputy Chancellor for Policy Development and Special Projects