

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Consent Item  
April 19, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Section 16 School Land Transfer

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## PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the Commissioner's recommendation to the Cabinet to transfer the designation of certain Section 16 lands located in the Big Cypress Preserve on an acre-for-acre basis to other lands owned by the state as designated below.

## AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1001.10(5), Florida Statutes, includes, among the powers and duties of the Commissioner of Education, "To recommend to the State Board of Education policies and steps designed to protect and preserve the principal of the State School Fund; . . . to execute such policies and actions as are approved..."

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State is currently planning a transfer of control and management of the Big Cypress Preserve to the Federal Government. Within these lands lie 14,155.85 acres designated as "Section 16 School Land," the proceeds of which are to be used for the benefit of the State School Trust Fund should they ever be sold. Prior to the transfer of Big Cypress, in order to maximize value to the State School Trust Fund, the Commissioner has recommended transferring the Section 16 status on an acre-for-acre basis to the following lands presently owned by the state:

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
2,891.25 acres  
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY  
2,980.95 acres  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
4,912.93 acres  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA  
1283.47 acres  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
645.80 acres  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA  
1441.45 acres needed to equal:  
TOTAL: 14,155.85 acres

This transfer requires final approval of the Governor and Cabinet sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. This action will not affect the University usage of the lands. Any rents and/or proceeds from future sales of the land will accrue to the benefit of the State School Trust Fund.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Daniel Woodring, General Counsel