

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Requested Reports, Updates, and Discussions
May 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Florida's New Partnership—NCLB

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

No action required — for the Board's information.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On April 7, 2005, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced a new approach to implementing the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. In her remarks, she said "States that show results and follow the principles of No Child Left Behind will be eligible for new tools to help them meet the law's goal of getting every child to grade level by 2013-14." Some of the tools will come in the form of new flexibilities awarded to states that are able to demonstrate success under the four guiding principles of NCLB: ensuring students are learning; making the school system accountable, ensuring information is accessible and options are available; and improving the quality of teachers.

The Department submitted a document—*Raising Student Achievement: Florida's Compelling Evidence*—to the United States Department of Education (USDE) on April 25, 2005, in response to this announcement. Under each of the four NCLB principles, we have demonstrated both our commitment and our successes. In a separate section of the document, we have shown how our sound education policies go above and beyond what is required.

With our strong commitment demonstrated, the Department is looking forward to a partnership with the USDE to "mesh" the best of both systems so that Florida can continue to focus on individual students through one strong accountability system.

Supporting Documentation Included: Available at the State Board Meeting

Facilitators/Presenters: Hanna Skandera, Deputy Commissioner

Accountability, Research and Measurement