

FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 23-24, 2001

SUBJECT: Independent Education in Florida

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For information purposes only: Provide overview of the nonpublic, nontraditional education choices in Florida and the role of independent education in the new seamless K-20 governance structure.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State of Florida has broken new ground in recognizing, at the highest level in its new governance structure for education, that many of its citizens are pursuing their education in non-government institutions or other settings:

- Of approximately 4.1 million Florida students engaged in formal learning between birth and age 20, one in four are doing so in non-government schools.
- In the academic range K through 20, one in seven of the 3.5 million students are receiving instruction from non-government teachers.
- Approximately 37,000 K-12 students are participating in home education.
- Thousands of students at all age levels are engaged in distance learning offered by independent institutions and organizations from around the world.
- 1,600 of the approximately 5,200 K-12 schools in Florida are private or parochial.
- 22 of the 32 SACS accredited colleges and universities are independent.
- Over 480 privately administered career education institutions, responding to the employment needs of the students and State, complement Florida's 28 community colleges.
- An additional 230 other agencies of higher education are licensed or recognized by the State Board of Independent Colleges and Universities.

A governance structure seeking to facilitate the education of the people of Florida must include the independent sector. Florida has embraced this student-centered perspective by establishing a new division to represent the Florida families and institutions involved in non-government education.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposal for the Division of Independent Education

Presenters: Patrick Heffernan Skardon Bliss Bob Boyd
 Brenda Dickinson Cecil Kidd