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MEMORANDUM

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TO: District School Superintendents
Excellent Teaching Program Contacts

FROM: David C. Ashburn

SUBJECT: 2001-2002 Florida Excellent Teaching Program Update

As you are aware, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has added five new certification areas--two levels of music, two levels of world languages other than English, and library media. Portfolios for these areas will be available December 3, 2001. You will recall that certification for library media was not previously approved for funding under the Florida Excellent Teaching Program (ETP). However, after a thorough review, the Department has determined that library media applicants **will be eligible** to apply for National Board certification through the Florida Excellent Teaching Program. Additionally, those National Board Certified teachers who serve as media specialists are eligible for the salary and mentoring bonuses, if they provide instruction to students full-time and have demonstrated satisfactory teaching performance pursuant to Section 231.29, Florida Statutes.

The Department will pay a fee subsidy in the amount of **\$2,070** for eligible library media applicants submitted by school districts and developmental research schools by the **state application deadline**, which is **September 28, 2001**. Application packages for library media applicants should be submitted to the Department along with others to assure receipt by the September deadline.

It is very important that applicants be advised of the sincere commitment of time and work that completion of NBPTS certification requires. Depending on the applicant's schedule and other responsibilities, preparation may require up to 200 hours.

DA/bhm