

Contact Person

Name: Jane Granger
Phone: 850/922-9750
Suncom: 292-9750
E-mail: grangej@mail.doe.state.fl.us
DPE: 02-09

January 18, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: District School Superintendents

From: David C. Ashburn

Subject: **Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol**

The 2000 Florida Legislature enacted new legislation to improve the quality of the professional development system for public education, building on major changes enacted in the 1998 and 1999 legislative sessions. Current law specifies in Section 231.600(6), Florida Statutes, that “The Department of Education shall design methods by which the state and district school boards may evaluate and improve the professional development system. The evaluation must include an annual assessment of data that indicates progress or lack of progress of all students.”

The Department has contracted with Evaluation Systems Design, Inc. (ESDI) of Tallahassee to develop and pilot test the Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol specified in the proviso language and to generate a report for delivery to the Commissioner of Education and the Legislature. The purposes of the new Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol are to:

1. Ensure the highest quality district, school, and faculty Professional Development Systems in Florida to support instructional programs throughout the state.
2. Provide the Commissioner of Education, Secretary of Education, and Legislature with information each year on the quality of the district Professional Development Systems.
3. Provide Florida school districts with the methods and protocols needed to conduct ongoing assessments of the quality of professional development in their schools.

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The new Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol is based on a set of standards that describe the characteristics and components of a quality professional development system that meets the requirements of Florida's laws. These standards have been generated from the statements in Florida's laws as well as *Standards for Staff Development* generated by the *National Staff Development Council (NSDC)*. They have been reviewed by representatives of local school districts, principals, teachers, and staff from the Department, Governor's Office, and Legislature.

Six districts representing small, medium, and large districts from across the state are being selected for the purpose of field testing the Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol. District feedback on the standards used and the process will be very valuable in ensuring that the new system is viable and meaningful.

So that all stakeholders will have an opportunity to review and respond to the Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol, we are sending a draft copy to each district. We request that you respond with your comments by February 1, 2002, by contacting Jane Granger at 850/922-9750 or SUNCOM 292-9750, or email at grangej@mail.doe.state.fl.us.

DCA:jgw

cc: District Staff Development Directors

Enclosure: Professional Development System Evaluation Protocol Draft Copy