

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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July 26, 2002

MEMORANDUM

To: District School Superintendents
From: David C. Ashburn
Subject: **District Hiring Policies Regarding Credit for Years of Service –
Legislative Changes and Survey**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of legislative changes in Section 231.36 (3)(g), Florida Statutes, entitled "Contracts with Instructional Staff, Supervisors, and Principals," which provided the requirement that for the purposes of pay, a school district must recognize a teacher's prior years of service out of district. Senate Bill 20-E changed the text in Section 1012.33 (3)(g), Florida Statutes, formerly Section 231.36(3)(g), Florida Statutes. The change, effective January 7, 2003, removes the reference to collective bargaining and clarifies that it applies only to public school teachers.

1012.33 Contracts with instructional staff, supervisors, and school principals.--
(3)(g) Beginning July 1, 2001, for each employee who enters into a written contract, pursuant to this section, in a school district in which the employee was not employed as of June 30, 2001, **for purposes of pay, a district school board must recognize and accept each year of full-time public school teaching service earned in the State of Florida or outside the state and for which the employee received a satisfactory performance evaluation.** Instructional personnel employed pursuant to s. 121.091(9)(b)3. are exempt from the provisions of this paragraph.

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Since July 1, 2001, when this statutory requirement of providing full credit for years of teaching experience took effect, district salary schedules and hiring practices are required to adhere to this statute. The new 2002 change in legislation emphasizes this requirement by removing the reference to collective bargaining and leaves no room for variance.

The Department requests that you respond to a "Years of Service" survey for the purpose of providing data on the implementation and fiscal impact of this legislation. Please go to http://info.doe.state.fl.us/profdev_service/index.cfm and complete the survey according to the directions on the site. The deadline for submitting the survey is August 16, 2002.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these matters. Please address any questions to the contact person listed on page 1 of this memorandum.

DCA/jgl