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Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



August 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF REQUESTED WAIVER FROM AYP CALCULATION FOR HAITIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS

As you know, Commissioner Eric Smith exercised state statutory authority to exempt from FCAT testing (for the spring 2010 test administrations) all children who immigrated or were evacuated from Haiti to Florida after the date of the earthquake in Haiti earlier this year (January 12, 2010). Commissioner Eric Smith also sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan requesting exemption of these earthquake-affected Haitian students from the reading and math participation rate components of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculation for Florida schools for the 2009-10 reporting year. Note that these students would have no impact on the proficiency calculations for AYP because only full-year-enrolled students are included in these measures. However, because Florida uses the February (Survey 3) student reporting count as a basis for calculating participation rates for AYP in reading and math, earthquake refugees who were enrolled during the Survey 3 reporting period could potentially affect AYP participation rate outcomes, unless these students are exempted from these measures as well.

In reviewing Florida's waiver request described above, the U.S. Department of Education has requested that the Florida Department of Education provide summary data on the count of earthquake-affected refugees, notify school districts (local education agencies, LEAs) of the requested waiver, and solicit public comments/feedback on the requested waiver.

This memorandum serves as notice of the AYP waiver request for Haitian refugees for the 2010 calculation. The table on the following page provides counts, by district, of earthquake-displaced refugees who were enrolled in Florida public schools during the Survey 3 (2009-10) reporting period.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Count of Haitian Refugee Students, by District
(Survey 3 Counts as of 6/28/10)

Note: Counts less than 10 but greater than 0 (zero) are represented by a pound sign (#).

District Number	District Name	Haitian Refugee Students
01	Alachua	#
05	Brevard	18
06	Broward	759
08	Charlotte	#
10	Clay	10
11	Collier	41
13	Miami-Dade	657
16	Duval	24
17	Escambia	#
18	Flagler	#
28	Highlands	#
29	Hillsborough	19
31	Indian River	#
35	Lake	#
36	Lee	36
37	Leon	#
41	Manatee	18
43	Martin	#
44	Monroe	#
48	Orange	128
49	Osceola	15
50	Palm Beach	286
51	Pasco	#
52	Pinellas	#
53	Polk	19
54	Putnam	#
55	St. Johns	#
56	St. Lucie	36
59	Seminole	12
64	Volusia	#
	State Total	2,132

Comments on the requested waiver to exempt Haitian refugees from the AYP participation rates are being compiled by the Department of Education and will be furnished to the U.S. Department of Education. If you wish to comment on the requested waiver, please e-mail your comments by August 23, 2010, to Edward Croft, Program Director for Evaluation and Reporting at ed.croft@fldoe.org.

FH/ec

cc: District accountability coordinators