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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Kathy Mizereck *KM*

DATE: November 22, 2002

SUBJECT: Office of Program Policy and Government
Accountability (OPPAGA) Best Practices for
Safety and Security

Section 229.8348(1), Florida Statutes, requires that the OPPAGA Safety and Security Best Practices be updated annually. Districts were given the opportunity to make recommendations for changes to the best practices back in August. District responses were received and reviewed by OPPAGA staff and the Partnership for School Safety and Security, as required by statute. Based on input from many education stakeholders, the final version of the revised best practices is attached.

CHARLIE CRIST
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The revised best practices should be used this academic year to conduct the self-assessment of your school district's current safety and security practices. Per Section 229.8348, F.S., based on these self-assessment findings, the superintendent shall provide, to the school board, recommendations which identify strategies and activities that the school district should implement in order to improve school safety and security.

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Each school board must receive the self-assessment results at a publicly-noticed school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the school board members discuss and take action on the report findings. Each superintendent shall report the self-assessment results and school board action to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days following the school board meeting. However, the school board meeting should be held on or by July 1, 2003.

The best practices provide a structure to assess the effectiveness of district-level safety and security programs and a means to solicit input and improve those programs for the benefit of Florida's students and schools. To assist you in the implementation of this section, the Department is attaching the following:

- DOE Approval Letter of Best Practices for Safety and Security
- Best Practices for Safety and Security
- Best Practices and Indicators for Safety and Security Self-Assessment Form
- Best Practices for Safety and Security Technical Assistance Paper

This document is also available as a Microsoft Word document. For any questions or a copy in Microsoft Word, please contact Lorraine Allen (Lorraine.Allen@fldoe.org) or Julie Collins (Julie.Collins@fldoe.org), Office of Safe Schools, at (850) 410-1667 or SunCom 210-1667.

KM/lha

Attachments (4)

cc: District Safe Schools Contacts
District Safe and Drug-Free Schools Contacts
District School Emergency Management Contacts
District Transportation Directors
District Coordinated School Health Contacts
District Drop-out Prevention Coordinators
District School Facilities Contacts
Partnership for School Safety and Security
John W. Turcotte, Director, OPPAGA