

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents  
District Assistant Superintendents for Instruction  
Principals and Assistant Principals, Public School Districts

**FROM:** Pam Stewart

**DATE:** January 28, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Evaluation of Florida's College and Career Readiness Initiative

### Contact Information:

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**DPS: 2012-208**

The Florida Department of Education and CNA (a non-profit research organization formerly known as Center for Naval Analyses) are collaborating on a \$5 million assessment of the effectiveness of the Florida College and Career Readiness Initiative (FCCRI) funded by a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The FCCRI consists of testing to determine college-readiness in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade and participation in college readiness and success courses in 12<sup>th</sup> grade for students who do not test college-ready.

This project involves a feedback component that we strongly support because it has the potential to substantially improve the outcome of the FCCRI by obtaining information from teachers and administrators who have direct experience with this program. We are, therefore, asking your assistance in executing the three parts of the feedback component as follows:

- A survey of one math teacher and one language arts teacher of college readiness and success, and/or prep courses in 180 high schools across Florida.
- A set of one-day regional forums (venues still to be determined) where the teachers surveyed will be asked to participate in small-group discussions.
- A group of advisory panels that will assist in developing the surveys and discussion guides in selected areas including Miami, Tampa, and Tallahassee. Each panel will consist of nine teachers, two high school administrators, and two district administrators.

The assistance we need is

1. District approval to contact high school administrators to obtain nominations of teachers to be surveyed and participate in advisory panels.
2. District nominations for advisory panel members (but only in districts in and near Miami, Tampa, and Tallahassee).
3. High school principal approval to contact teachers to ask them to take the survey and to contact teachers and administrators to participate in small-group discussions.
4. High school administrator nominations of teachers to participate in surveys and small-group discussions.

The project is designed to minimize the amount of help requested from district and high school administrators. CNA staff will make all of the contacts to obtain nominations and to ask teachers to volunteer to take the surveys and attend the small-group discussion. The survey will be conducted outside of normal school hours using the Internet and should take no more than a half hour of each teacher's time. Teachers will receive \$10 for filling out the survey. The small-group discussions will be conducted towards the end of this school year at one-day regional forums at convenient locations throughout Florida. Teachers' cost of transportation and meals will be reimbursed, and high schools will be reimbursed for the cost of substitute teachers for the day.

The advisory panels are being formed right now and involve participation in three discussions that will develop surveys and discussion guides to assess the status of the FCCRI, strengths and weaknesses of the implementations, and ways to improve the effectiveness of the FCCRI. All of the discussions will be conducted outside of normal school hours, and participants will be paid \$100 for each discussion.

We hope that you will agree to provide the help required to make this project a success by providing information critical to assessing how well the FCCRI is achieving its goals, identifying the impediments preventing the FCCRI from reaching its full potential, and discussing how those impediments can be overcome.

More information about the project can be found at <http://ies.ed.gov/funding/grantsearch/details.asp?ID=1337> . If you have any questions about the study, please contact the principal investigator, Dr. Christine Mokher, at (305) 975-1394 or [mokherc@cna.org](mailto:mokherc@cna.org) or contact Teresa Sweet directly per contact information provided on the first page.

PS/ts