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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva, Chancellor, Division of Public Schools
Laura Mazyck, Interim Executive Director, Office of
Independent Education and Parental Choice

DATE: January 31, 2020

SUBJECT: **Family Empowerment Scholarship Parental Notification of School Choice Options**

Contact Information:

Joy Mathis
850-245-0502
Joy.Mathis@fldoe.org
DPS: 2020-07

The Florida Department of Education continues to work toward improving the quality of educational options for Florida students. Public school districts share in the important task of communicating to parents and guardians the school choice options that are available.

Pursuant to Section 1002.394(6), Florida Statutes, states that by July 15, 2019, and by April 1 of each school year thereafter, a school district shall inform all households within the district receiving free or reduced priced meals under the National School Lunch Act of their eligibility to participate in the newly created Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) Program.

The law further provides that the Department of Education shall develop the notification form and provide to the district, and the district shall include the form in any normal correspondence with eligible households.

Attached to this memo is the FES notification form. Please provide the FES notification form to each household within your district that is receiving free or reduced priced meals. The Department will send out an electronic survey in August requesting the district to confirm the notification was sent, the number of families the notification was sent to, and the method of the distribution.

Additionally, each school district must publish information about the FES Program on the district's website homepage. At a minimum, the published information must include a website link to the Department's FES webpage (www.fldoe.org/FES) as well as a telephone number and e-mail that students and parents may use to contact relevant personnel in the school district to obtain information about the scholarship.

To certify compliance with this requirement, please complete and submit the Notification Verification Form by **Monday, April 13, 2020**.

If you have questions related to this requirement, please contact Joy Mathis by email at Joy.Mathis@fldoe.org or by telephone at 850-245-0502.

JO/JM

Attachments (3)

cc: Public School District Exceptional Student Education Directors
Florida Empowerment Scholarship Program District Contacts