

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

MARK KAPLAN

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

SUSAN STORY

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Smith".

DATE: March 3, 2011

SUBJECT: Department of Education/Florida Sterling Council Collaboration

The Florida Department of Education is in its second year of partnering with the Florida Sterling Council, which has continued to support Florida's Education Summit. Last year, we had a very successful event that included more than 20 participating school districts. This year we aim to build on this success, and with our approaches to implement the Race to the Top education grant funds, Florida is moving forward with implementing strategies to drive performance excellence across our education system. This event will facilitate the sharing of best practices in areas focused on Race to the Top priorities including data collection, effective teacher initiatives, and approaches to work with the lowest performing schools. I invite you to attend this 2nd annual Education Summit.

The Florida Education Summit will be held on May 31, 2011, in conjunction with the Governor's Annual Sterling Conference. The primary goal of the Summit and the Conference's education track is to learn from leading experts and each other, so that we can create a basis for collaboration and accelerated improvement in the quality of education in Florida. During the course of the year, the Best Practices Florida-Education website serves as a key collaboration tool for Florida's educators, and all Summit presentations are selected from the Best Practices website.

Successful organizations in various industries have learned to capitalize on shared knowledge, and the replication of best practices to achieve performance breakthroughs in effectiveness and productivity. I am excited about the potential of our efforts, and appreciative of your role in making Florida the best education system in the nation.

Department of Education/Florida Sterling Council Collaboration

March 3, 2011

Page Two

- To learn more about the Florida Education Summit and 2011 Sterling Conference visit http://floridsterling.com/annualconference_overview.html
- To learn more about the Best Practices Initiative visit http://www.floridasterling.com/Best_Practice_Submissions.html

I look forward to seeing you at the Summit.

EJS/fh