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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: August 23, 2019

SUBJECT: **Substance Use and Abuse Health Education**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2019-133

In Florida, substance use and abuse health education has been identified as a high priority by First Lady Casey DeSantis. For decades, Comprehensive Health Education has included substance use and abuse as part of required instruction through [section 1003.42 \(2\)\(n\), Florida Statutes](#), but did not include assurance mechanisms to support and verify that instruction was being delivered.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, one person dies every 12.5 minutes from an opioid overdose. In addition, Dr. Adams declared youth vaping as an epidemic of great concern. Statistics from 2012-2018 in Florida indicate electronic vaping increased among 11-17 year olds by over 500%. Education on the prevention of substance use and abuse provides the knowledge, tools, and skills to help prevent drug addiction.

[Rule 6A-1.094122, F.A.C.](#), was approved by the State Board of Education on August 21, 2019. This rule requires school districts to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 related to youth substance use and abuse health education, and institutes procedures for school districts to document planning and delivery of instruction. Substance use and abuse health education should advance each year through developmentally appropriate instruction and skill building using the adopted health education standards found at www.cpalms.org. Decisions about which course(s) will be used to deliver this instruction and curricula used will be determined at the school district level. The rule will be in effect for the 2019-2020 school year.

By December 1 of each year, each school district must submit an implementation plan to the commissioner at SubstanceAbusePrevention@fldoe.org and post the plan on the school district website. The implementation plan must include:

- (a) The specific course(s) in which instruction will be delivered for each grade level;
- (b) The professional qualifications of the person delivering instruction; and
- (c) A description of the materials and resources utilized to deliver instruction.

Additionally, by July 1 of each year, each school district must submit an annual report to the commissioner to verify completion of the instruction.

JO/pt

JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS