

**Educational Support for
Students and Families:**

**New Opportunities to Address the Needs of
Children in Foster Care and Creating a
“Military Friendly State” in Florida**

**AMM
Orlando, FL • November 3-5, 2004**

Background

Education of children in foster care

- 2002 Foster Care Independence Act signed
- Independent Living Services Workgroup
- Issues/Recommendations related to education

**2004 Overview of legislation
related to ...**

HB 723 - Education of Children in Foster Care

- *Children known to the Department*
- Establishes goals not rights
- Requires state agreement
- Requires local agreements

HB 723 — Education of Children in Foster Care

DCF and school district agreement shall include, but is not limited to...

- DCF requirements
- District School Board requirements
- DCF/School Board requirements for students with disabilities
- Training requirements

Department of Education Next Steps

- Inform districts of legislative requirements
- Develop resource packet of information
- Provide technical assistance
- Disseminate district feedback/results
- Communicate with district liaisons

Contact Information

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**FOSTERING
STUDENT SUCCESS**

The Interagency Agreement
Broward County, Florida

Presented by:

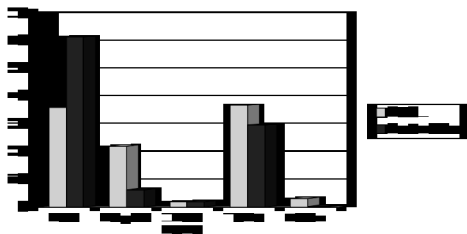
DEBBIE WINTERS- SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY
AMM Conference
November 3-5, 2004
Orlando, FL

Education of Foster Care Children

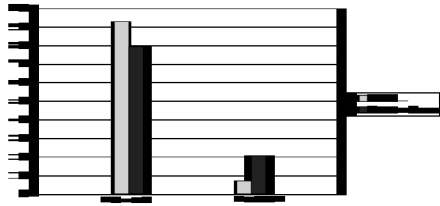
Researchers across the country have assessed the educational performance of children in foster care and have concluded that foster children as a group often demonstrate weaker cognitive abilities, behavioral and emotional problems, and higher rates of absenteeism and tardiness which contribute to poor academic performance and retention.

Kurtz, P., Gaudin Jr., J., and Howing, P., *Maltreatment and the School-Aged Child: School Performance Consequences*, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 17, p. 581-589, (1993).

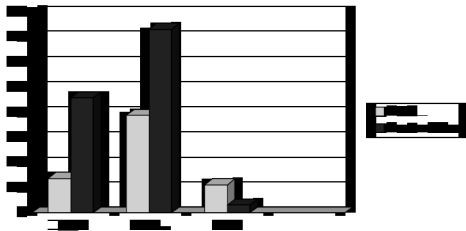
Ethnicity



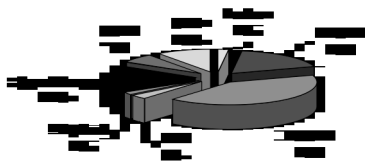
Promotion/Retention Rates



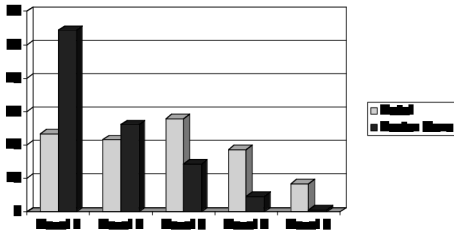
Special Program Status



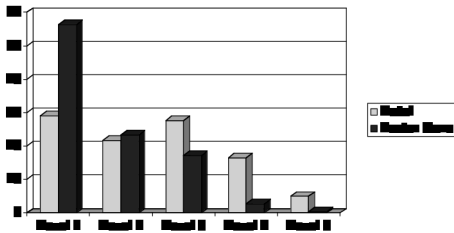
Exceptionality Groupings



Performance on FCAT-Math



Performance on FCAT-Reading



The Interagency Agreement

- Agency Collaboration
- Staff Development
- Student Records and Sharing of Info
- Educational Stabilization
- Parental Rights
- Surrogate Parents
- Independent Living
- Evaluation

Current Collaborative Efforts

- Quarterly Steering Committee
- Coordination of Training and Presentations
- Parent Involvement Training
- Surrogate Parent Planning
- Transition Planning
- Student Services Departments
- Data Systems
- Early Intervention
- Public School Choice
- Preparation for First Day of School

Sharing of Information

- FERPA/Consent to Release Educational Records
- Letter Signed by the Superintendent
- Provision of active/exited client lists to SBBC bi-weekly
- "Hidden" flag on district Student Support Services screen while in foster care
- SBBC provides weekly attendance report and annual academic record to ChildNet
- SBBC provides notice to ChildNet when mandated parental correspondence is released.
- Child Advocate provides unique foster care demographic information form to school
- Centralized tracking of court orders affecting education

Educational Stabilization

“ChildNet shall attempt to place students in foster care homes within or closest to their home school boundaries to facilitate stabilization of school placements.”

Transportation

- To the extent possible, transportation is provided to maintain the student in their school of record/history
- 92% (238) of the requests received were routed

School	North of Atlantic Blvd.	South of Atlantic Blvd, North of Commercial Blvd.	South of Commercial Blvd, north of Sunrise Blvd.	South of Sunrise Blvd.
Boyd Anderson High	4	2	1	1
Plantation High	5	5	4	1

You can make a difference!

I was in nine different homes as a teenager. The one stable thing in my life was my high school. When I got moved to the children's shelter, staff took turns picking me up to make sure that I got to school. In retrospect, I realize that it was the most powerful thing somebody could have ever done for me — made sure I got an education.

(Bernstein, p. 81)

Internal Partners in Success

- Student Services (Social Work, Guidance, ESE, FDLRS, Psychological Services)
- Dropout Prevention
- Transportation
- Adult/Community Education
- Information Technology
- Legal Services

Florida Department of Education

External Partners in Success

- Department of Children and Families
- Community-Based Care Provider
- Child Protective Investigation Units
- Attorney General's Office
- Guardian-ad-Litem Office
- Legal Aid/Attorneys-ad-Litem
- Judges
- Service Providers

Current Collaborative Ventures

- SED Network
- Shared Services Network
- Safe and Drug Free Schools Forum
- Community Alliance
- DCIP (Dependency Court Improvement Project)

For Additional Information/Questions Contact:

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Military Friendly Florida

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Student Support Services Project

Lee Clark,
BEES, DOE

Administrators' Management Meeting
Orlando, FL • November 3-5, 2004

Military Friendly Florida

- SB 1604 amended or created laws
- Purpose of law
- Effects on schools and districts
- Technical assistance needs

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Florida's Military Installations

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ Bay-Tyndall AFB | ▪ Hillsborough- MacDill AFB |
| ▪ Brevard- Patrick AFB | ▪ Monroe- NAS Key West |
| ▪ Clay- Camp Blanding | ▪ Okaloosa- Eglin AFB Hurlburt Field |
| ▪ Dade- Southern Command | ▪ Pinellas- CG Group St. Petersburg |
| ▪ Duval- NAS Jacksonville NS Mayport | ▪ Santa Rosa- NAS Whiting Field |
| ▪ Escambia- NAS Pensacola | |

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Purpose

- **Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), 2005 list**
- **Loss of revenue**
- **Maintain and grow perception that Florida is military friendly**
- **Enhance accessibility of Florida's schools to military connected students**

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Military Dependent Student Scholarships

Section 295.01

- **Amended existing scholarship program to include eligible military dependents whose parent dies as a result of service connected injury, disease or disability sustained while on *active duty***
- **Changed from sustained during time of *war***

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McKay Scholarships

Section 1002.39(2)(a)

- **Eliminates the residency requirement for military dependent students**
- **All other eligibility requirements remain in effect**

Section 1002.39(8)

- **Districts must expedite development of matrix based on existing/current IEP**

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Memoranda of Agreement

Section 1003.05

- A cooperative agreement between district & military installation to facilitate transition & collaboration.
- Districts w/military installations must develop MOA
- Contiguous districts encouraged to participate in development of MOA
- All districts must comply w/ legislative mandates

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Access to Programs

Section 1003.05(3)

- Preference given to *all* active military dependent children
- *All school districts must comply*
- If student meets eligibility criteria- *must be enrolled*, not placed on waiting list
- Priority regardless of when entered district

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Alternative Assessment

Section 1008.221

- Transferring "Seniors" may use concordant SAT or ACT scores in lieu of FCAT
- Not required to take FCAT prior to use of ACT or SAT

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Foreign Liaison Officer Tuition

Section 1009.21

- Active duty foreign military officers serving as liaison officers residing or stationed in Florida, & their dependents classified as residents for tuition purposes
- Must attend CC or university w/in 50 miles of military establishment where assigned

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Technical assistance needs?

Resources

- Military Child Education Coalition: www.MilitaryChild.org
- Student Support Services Project: <http://sss.usf.edu>
- FL DOE: www.firn.edu/doe/military/
- Rich Downs, School Counseling Consultant, SSSP rdowns@tempest.coedu.usf.edu or 850.922-3732
- Lee Clark, Program Specialist, FL DOE Lee.Clark@fldoe.org or 850.245-0478

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