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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Paul O. Burns, Ed.D.

DATE: October 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Designation of 2023-24 Schools of Excellence

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The State Board of Education designated the list of 2023-24 Schools of Excellence on October 9, 2024. Section 1003.631, Florida Statutes, requires the State Board to designate a school as a School of Excellence if the school's percentage of possible points earned in its school grade calculation is in the 80th percentile or higher for schools comprised of the same grade groupings (elementary, middle, high and combination) for at least two of the last three school years.

This program was created by the Florida Legislature in 2017. Schools that initially qualify for the designation retain their designation as a School of Excellence for up to three years, at the end of which they may renew the designation. School districts with a School of Excellence are listed on page two of this memo. The list of schools is posted at <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/accountability-reporting/school-grades/>.

For 2023-24, 774 schools were designated as a School of Excellence across 52 school districts. Of these schools, 514 maintained their designation, 198 renewed their designation, and 62 were newly designated.

A School of Excellence has the following administrative flexibilities outlined in law:

- exemption from any provision of law or rule that expressly requires a minimum period of daily or weekly instruction in reading;
- principal autonomy as provided under section 1012.28(8), Florida Statutes;
- instructional personnel may substitute one school year of employment at a School of Excellence for 20 inservice points, up to 60 inservice points total in a five-year cycle, toward the renewal of a professional certificate;
- exemption from compliance with school district policies or procedures establishing times for the start and end of the school day; and
- calculation of class size compliance based on the average number of students at the school level.

DR. PAUL O. BURNS
SENIOR CHANCELLOR

Designation of Schools of Excellence

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School districts with a School of Excellence:

- Alachua
- Baker
- Bay
- Brevard
- Broward
- Charlotte
- Citrus
- Clay
- Collier
- Columbia
- Miami-Dade
- Dixie
- Duval
- Escambia
- Flagler
- Glades
- Hernando
- Hillsborough
- Indian River
- Lafayette
- Lake
- Lee
- Leon
- Levy
- Liberty
- Manatee
- Marion
- Martin
- Monroe
- Nassau
- Okaloosa
- Orange
- Osceola
- Palm Beach
- Pasco
- Pinellas
- Polk
- Putnam
- St. Johns
- St. Lucie
- Santa Rosa
- Sarasota
- Seminole
- Sumter
- Suwannee
- Taylor
- Volusia
- Wakulla
- Walton
- FAU Lab School
- FSU Lab School
- UF Lab School

Congratulations to these districts and schools.

Note: The Commissioner of Education has been granted the authority by the State Board of Education to designate a school, at any point during the year, as a School of Excellence if that school meets the statutory criteria subsequent to the approval of the initial list of Schools of Excellence designated by the State Board of Education for that school year.

PB/hre