

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey Commissioner

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ces Charlie Crist, Governor Bill McCollum, Attorney General Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture

## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2008

TO: School District Representatives

FROM: Criminal Justice Information Services User Services Bureau

SUBJECT: Utilization of Florida Shared School Results (FSSR) Exclusively for Contractors

The 2005 Legislature mandated that contractors in Florida public schools are subject to state and national criminal history checks. These checks are often referred to as "Jessica Lunsford Act background checks." Contracted personnel in the school districts include a wide variety of contractors such as persons who work on construction or facility repairs, deliver food supplies to the cafeteria, sell the class rings, etc.

Contracted personnel voiced many concerns about the background checks. These concerns typically revolved around the fact that each school district has its own system, submitting electronic fingerprints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and receiving the criminal history request results. Because the contractors often work in multiple school districts, these contractual employees had to go to the fingerprinting site in each district and pay the fees. FDLE developed the Florida Shared School Results (FSSR) system to respond to these concerns. This system allowed Florida school districts criminal history results to be used by other school districts. It was designed specifically to alleviate the need for contractual personnel to be fingerprinted in each district when they are concurrently employed in multiple districts.

Because of the changes brought about by Senate Bill 988, which amended section 1012.467, Florida Statutes, each school district now has a unique ORI (FL9XXXX2Z) for submission of these contractual personnel effective July 1, 2007. FDLE has a significant workload associated with the FSSR. Because of the budget crisis and our inability to fill vacant positions, FDLE has decided to retain criminal history results in the FSSR exclusively for this ORI. This means that the results for persons you submitted or submit in the future under your ORIs for instructional and non-instructional personnel (FL9XXXX0Z and FL9XXXX1Z) will not be posted to the FSSR system.

Effective September 1, 2008, the criminal history request results for your ORIs on instructional and non-instructional personnel will be removed from the FSSR. All results for the ORIs for your contractors will continue to be posted on the FSSR for you to use as needed and as required by Florida Law.

MW/sm