MEMORANDUM

TO: Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

FROM: Marc Baron, Ph.D.
Chief of Performance Accountability

Through: Ann Killets
Chief Academic Officer

DATE: June 2, 2006

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISTRICT SIZE AND GAIN IN PROFICIENCY

We have completed an analysis of the relationship between Florida school district size and the increase in third grade FCAT reading and mathematics proficiency from FY2005 to FY2006. To verify the results for those years, we also analyzed increases in proficiency from FY2003 to FY2004 and FY2004 to FY2005.

Scatter plots of the FY2005-FY2006 results and a list of Florida districts sorted by their gains are attached. The results of analyses in both subjects follow:

• District size is not related to the annual improvement in proficiency;

• Small districts tend to vary greatly in annual change; large districts do not;

• Because small districts tend to vary greatly, the 10 districts with the largest increase in proficiency and the 10 districts with the least increase in proficiency are likely to be small districts in any given year.

AK:MB:DS:jl

Attachment

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