

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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July 17, 2008

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



Dr. Eric J. Smith
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1514
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Dear Commissioner Smith:

The attached memorandum from the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services is their report of actions taken in response to recommendations in the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) audit report 08-01, *Florida's Gifted Student Population Grew Faster Than the Overall School Enrollment*. Also attached for your reference is a copy of the OPPAGA report; their recommendations are shown on page 12.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 245-9418.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ed W. Jordan".

Ed W. Jordan
Inspector General

EWJ/br

Attachment

c: Florida Legislative Auditing Committee
OPPAGA
Sandy Cho
Linda Champion

ED W. JORDAN, CIG, CFE, CIA
INSPECTOR GENERAL

325 W. GAINES STREET SUITE 1201 • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0400 • (850) 245-0403 • www.fldoe.org

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Received

JUL 16 2008

**Office Of Inspector General
FL Department of Education**

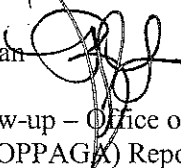
Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



July 15, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ed W. Jordan, Inspector General

FROM: Bambi J. Lockman 

SUBJECT: Six-month Follow-up – Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Report

We are writing in response to your memo dated June 18, 2008, in which you requested a status report with regard to OPPAGA audit report 08-01, *Florida's Gifted Student Population Grew Faster Than the Overall School Enrollment*. This report was released in January 2008.

The following information provides a summary of actions taken and proposed:

- The position for gifted education returned to the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) on April 1, 2008.
- BEESS intends to address OPPAGA's recommendation and create a data element in the automated student data base. School districts will use this element to report whether a student has been identified as gifted under the general or alternative identification (Plan B) requirements. The request for the data element will be made no later than March 2009 with districts initiating reporting during the 2009-10 school year.
- We have surveyed the ten largest districts regarding the second recommendation concerning the state Course Code Directory. The responses strongly support the need to establish consistent coding for classes offered to students who are gifted. This would help to ensure that gifted students receive differentiated instruction. The next step will be to collaborate with districts to determine what course code changes may be necessary to facilitate improved reporting of provision of services for gifted students.
- Beginning 2008-2009, districts will submit their current Plan B with their revised *Policies and Procedures for the Provision of Specially Designed Instruction for Exceptional Students* for approval.

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN

Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Ed W. Jordan
July 15, 2008
Page Two

This will ensure that our records are current and reflect accurately those districts that are currently implementing Plan B.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to respond. Please let us know if we might be able to provide any further information.

BJL/dss

cc: Frances Haithcock
Mary Jane Tappen
Karen Denbroeder
Kim Komisar
Cathy Bishop
Donnajo Smith