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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: **Florida Tobacco Prevention Training for Educators**

In the continued effort to reduce and prevent tobacco use among school-aged children, the Florida Department of Education administers the Florida Tobacco Prevention Training for Educators through the School District of Palm Beach County.

This distance-learning course is a no cost, professional development opportunity for all certified Florida teachers and school counselors. Registration is open from August 14, 2017, through April 30, 2018. Participants have 24-hour access, seven days a week and may take up to the June 7, 2018, deadline to complete the course. There are two course options: a 30-hour or a 60-hour course. Districts may award participants who complete one of the courses 30 or 60 in-service points towards teacher recertification. Registration can be accessed at <http://www.tobaccopreventiontraining.org/>.

Florida teachers and students have benefited greatly from this program since it launched in 2010. Evaluation results show both teachers and students increased their knowledge, and students changed their attitudes and behavior regarding tobacco use. Tobacco use by students interferes with their academic achievement and is associated with other drug use. Over the past two years, over 500 Florida educators from 52 districts across the state have completed this course and taught more than 38,000 students tobacco prevention.

I encourage your district to take advantage of this professional development opportunity.

For more information, please contact Petricia Sailor at Petricia.Sailor@fldoe.org or by phone at 850-245-9322.

HL/ps

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS