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DPS: 2018-169

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: November 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Social and Emotional Education and Skills Development Landscape in Florida

The Florida Department of Education's Offices of Safe Schools and Healthy Schools have forged a partnership to build a statewide foundation for safe and supportive school environments through a three-pronged approach to improve social and emotional education and skills development. Research shows that social and emotional education positively impacts academic achievement and significantly reduces conduct problems, emotional distress and drug use.

This three-pronged approach includes the following:

1. Facilitate a Florida Social Emotional Education District Collaborative to build statewide capacity.
2. Develop an interactive district implementation landscape map.
3. Strengthen social and emotional education and skills development through a best-practice track at the 2nd Annual Making Wellness a Priority: Healthy Minds & Healthy Futures Conference.

To build the landscape map, we need to gather district-level information about the implementation of social and emotional education and skills development programs, practices, strategies and initiatives. Please designate a staff member who oversees social and emotional education in your district to complete a brief four question [survey](#) by **December 7, 2018**, to help us begin developing the landscape map.

The 2nd Annual Making Wellness a Priority: Healthy Minds & Healthy Futures Conference is scheduled for May 1-3, 2019, at Omni Resort in ChampionsGate, Florida. The conference brings together national and local experts to share innovative and proven practical approaches in the area of transition of youth with mental health disabilities, specifically addressing employment, prevention, community engagement and systems of care. This year, there will be a specific track featuring Social and Emotional Education and Skills Development.

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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If your district is interested in being considered as a potential workshop presenter, please complete the [Call for Presentations form](#) by **Friday, January 18, 2019**.

For more information, please contact Brooks Rumenik at Brooks.Rumenik@fldoe.org or Penny Taylor at Penny.Taylor@fldoe.org.

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cc: School Safety Specialist