

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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March 14, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** *Reading First* School Superintendents  
District *Reading First* Coordinators

**FROM:** Evan Lefsky, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Just Read, Florida!

**SUBJECT:** Sustaining *Reading First* Reading Coach Services

This memo is intended to clarify the expectations of the Just Read, Florida! Office related to sustaining reading coaches for the last year of *Reading First* and also into the years when *Reading First* funds will no longer be available. Reading coaches have been an integral part of the success of the statewide reading initiatives over the last few years, and we believe that maintaining reading coaches is crucial to sustaining our *Reading First* efforts.

As stated in a previous memo, the 2007-08 school year will be the last year that *Reading First* will be funded unless reauthorized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE). The Florida *Reading First* grant distributed funds through the use of a declining funding model, which allowed the state to fund more schools for a longer period of time and also provided districts the opportunity to plan for sustaining the *Reading First* efforts once *Reading First* funds were no longer available. This model has given districts the opportunity to sustain efforts as the funding declined using a combination of *Reading First* funds and other resources, including but not limited to, Title I, IDEA, Research-based reading instruction allocation, and SAI.

EVAN B. LEFSKY, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JUST READ, FLORIDA!

The *Reading First* grants were awarded prior to the reading allocation being a part of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Currently, \$111.8 million dollars is dedicated to reading instruction in the state of Florida, and this year there is a request of a 23% increase to the reading allocation, amounting to an additional \$26 million. One of the requirements of the K-12 Reading Plan is that districts must ensure that the number of state, federal, or locally funded reading coaches is increased over the previous year and prioritized based on school need. Due to the possible increase in funding, and the requirement for districts to increase the number of reading coaches, the expectation of the Just Read, Florida! Office is for ***Reading First* districts to maintain or increase the reading coaches in *Reading First* schools by using the reading allocation of the FEFP or any other applicable funding source to supplement *Reading First* funding in order to sustain reading coaches.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cari Miller, Director of *Reading First* at 850/245-0503 or via email at [Cari.Miller@fldoe.org](mailto:Cari.Miller@fldoe.org). Thank you for your support of *Reading First* and its many benefits to the children in your district.

EBL/cm

CC: RFPD Regional Coordinators