

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents  
School Principals

**FROM:** Linda Champion

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Champion".

**DATE:** November 30, 2011

**SUBJECT:** National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, community, and school. Annually, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. National Missing Children's Day, to be recognized on May 25, 2012, will focus attention on children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing.

Each year DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, DC. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, is flown to Washington, DC, to attend this special ceremony. I invite you to join us in our efforts to educate children across the country about safety issues by giving your 5<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest.

Local schools participating in the event will have the opportunity to submit their winning poster for judging at the state level. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC), along with the Florida Department of Education and other organizations, will select a winner to represent the State of Florida. The statewide winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip

LINDA CHAMPION  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

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to Tallahassee for Florida Missing Children's Day in September, and the student's poster will be submitted to the U.S. DOJ for the national judging.

The theme for the poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home." We encourage schools to start as soon as possible on their poster contest and classroom discussions. Each school will be responsible for selecting one winning poster per 5<sup>th</sup> grade class that participates. January 13, 2012, which is national AMBER Alert Awareness Day, is the suggested conclusion date for the local and regional competitions. Schools will need to submit their poster(s) to MEPIC, postmarked by January 31, 2012, for state-level judging at the following address:

Jessica Davenport  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse  
2331 Phillips Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

A complete packet of information can be found at: <http://mecptraining.org/poster-contest/>. If you have any questions or need additional information about this national contest, please send an e-mail to [mepic@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:mepic@fdle.state.fl.us) or [mc.day@fvtc.edu](mailto:mc.day@fvtc.edu).

We look forward to receiving entries from around the state and hope that your 5<sup>th</sup> graders will join in this exciting and important national competition.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support. Together we can ensure the safety and security of children across the country.

LC/ma/cw