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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida District School Superintendents
Florida College Presidents
Florida University Presidents
Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Service Organizations

FROM: Thomas H. Inserra *T.H.*

DATE: November 13, 2015

SUBJECT: **Classroom Door Security Devices**

In the past decade, our nation has been faced with active shooters in our midst. We must ensure that our schools, colleges and universities are safe places of learning for our children. The best way to make this a reality is to work within the current building and fire codes to avoid the unintended consequences to life safety. We have seen a rise in a number of door security devices intended to secure classrooms. These devices may provide some level of security, but may also compromise other life safety aspects.

These devices may not meet current code requirements and may negatively affect life safety, such as emergency egress. The codes and standards adopted in Florida and followed in the design and maintenance of our educational facilities help to ensure life safety for all occupants of a school or postsecondary institution.

Current code requirements for classroom doors that are used as a means of egress require doors to function as fire-rated, smoke and draft control doors, be unlatchable in a single motion from inside the room, and unlockable and openable from the outside by authorized persons. Therefore, the Department of Education and the State Fire Marshal's office will not approve the use of these types of devices that do not comply with the current laws, codes and standards adopted in Florida. Unless the codes and standards change, our agencies will enforce the current code requirements as approved.

If you have questions, please contact either Darrell Phillips, Office of Educational Facilities, at darrell.phillips@fldoe.org or 850-245-9224, or Casia Sinco, Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention, at Casia.Simco@myfloridacfo.com or 850-413-3620.

PS/ss

cc: R.J. Castellanos, Director, Florida Division of Risk Management
Julius Halas, Director, Florida Division of State Fire Marshal
Jay Etheridge, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Florida Department of Financial Services

Thomas H. Inserra
Director, Office of Educational Facilities