

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** Dr. Michael Grego

**DATE:** August 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Section 1004.55 Florida Statutes (F.S.), Related to Public Records

### Contact Information

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DPS: 2011-111

The 2011 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 579 – *An act related to public records*. Governor Rick Scott signed this bill into law on June 24, 2011. This legislation amended section 1004.55, F.S., pertaining to public record exemptions for the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD).

An exemption from public record requirements applies for:

- all records that relate to a client of a regional autism center who receives the services of center or participates in center activities and the client's family
- the release of specified confidential and exempt information by a center under certain circumstances
- personal identifying information of a donor or prospective donor to a regional autism center if such donor or prospective donor wishes to remain anonymous

In specific situations, CARD records may be released:

- to physicians, attorneys and governmental entities if authorized by the client
- in response to a subpoena or persons authorized by the court
- to a qualified researcher, State Board of Education or the Florida Board of Governors if redacted and deemed necessary by the director

DR. MICHAEL GREGO  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The enrolled bill may be found at:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=45477>. If you have questions regarding implementation of this legislation, please contact Ms. Jennifer Hykes, Program Specialist, via e-mail at [Jennifer.Hykes@fldoe.org](mailto:Jennifer.Hykes@fldoe.org) or by telephone at (850) 245-0478.

BJL/jhs

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