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Striving to be the Nation's Premier Learning Organization

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January 12, 2015

Commissioner Pam Stewart
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 432
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Commissioner Stewart:

As you are aware, in accordance with Florida Statute 1001.42(4)(f) the opening date for schools may not be earlier than 14 days before Labor Day. Academically high-performing school districts, however, are exempt from this mandate.

We believe this mandate is too restrictive. At this time Flagler Schools is seeking permission to allow the District to start the school year earlier than the mandate allows. Because we do not qualify as a high-performing district, we are prevented from doing what we believe is educationally sound.

Allowing Flagler Schools to start earlier would be in our students' best interest. By starting earlier, students will have more days of instruction before State, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced Placement testing occurs in the spring. The schedule for dual enrolled high school students would mirror that of our local college.

At this time, we are seeking permission to start the 2015-16 school year on August 10, which is prior to the date currently mandated under Florida Statute 1001.42(4)(f). We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Regards,

Jacob Oliva
Superintendent

cc: Flagler Schools Board of Education