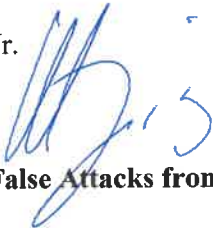




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Grazie Pozo Christie
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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Manny Diaz, Jr. 

DATE: July 26, 2023

SUBJECT: **Response to False Attacks from the White House on African American History Standards**

As you know, the State Board of Education recently adopted comprehensive [African American History Standards](#). Following the adoption of these standards, the Biden Administration—led by Vice President Kamala Harris and Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cardona—have intentionally misrepresented our groundbreaking work. I am issuing this memo to reaffirm that we will be moving forward with implementing Florida’s new history standards. Despite the partisan and inaccurate criticism we have received, Florida’s thorough standards promote the teaching of accurate, detailed, and nuanced history free from political sanitation or indoctrination.

The adoption of a stand-alone strand of African American History standards is a first for Florida. It builds off our continued efforts since 2019 to teach our students unbiased African American history. This effort has included the adoption of standards to teach about the Ocoee Massacre, the brutal injustices of slavery, and a robust focus on the civil rights movement.

To develop these new standards, the Department assembled an august group of African American scholars and Florida educators utilizing a rigorous process, and we couldn’t be happier with the results. The standards are supported by historical accounts of African Americans, including slaves and their immediate descendants. If you wish to look into these accounts yourselves, I encourage you to reach out to the Department for reference materials. As is always the case with new standards, the Department’s social studies team members will prepare professional learning that will guide educators as they implement the new, robust African American History standards.

Let me be clear: we are not turning our backs on the great work of the African American History workgroup. We will implement these standards swiftly, transparently, and honestly. I recommend you instruct the appropriate administrators and educators in your district to begin reviewing their lesson plans to ensure they build out adequate time to teach these African American History standards. It will accrue to the benefit of our students.

If you have any questions, please contact John Duebel at 850-245-0504 or John.Duebel@fldoe.org.