



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2013

Florida Superintendents:

I want to thank the 16 superintendents and school boards who have worked together to negotiate with unions and ratify collective bargaining agreements for our teachers that resulted in pay raises utilizing the \$480 million we dedicated to Florida teachers in this year's budget. Our teachers are some of the most hardworking professionals among us, and they are truly on the frontlines of training the workforce of the future.

For those districts that have not yet finalized collective bargaining agreements on teacher pay raises, I have asked the Commissioner of Education to provide any support and guidance you need to come to a final agreement quickly. Florida teachers deserve a salary increase, and they should have the benefit of knowing their new salary level as soon as possible so they can best plan for their future.

At a time when partisan rancor and arguing have broken down any hope of negotiation and compromise in our nation's capital, I am proud that we worked in a bipartisan manner to bring together members of the Legislature, the Florida School Board Association, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, and the Florida Education Association to increase teacher pay in our budget. In just about 60 days, we were able to forge this historic agreement in our final budget by compromising and working together - across party lines.

Since the budget took effect on July 1, 2013, more than 90 days have passed and most school districts have not reached final agreements on their teacher pay raises. I spoke to Department of Education Commissioner Pam Stewart today and asked her to work with each of the 51 county school districts in any way possible to encourage a quick resolution to the final pay raise amount in these districts.

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Like me, I know you value the work and dedication of the teachers within your district and we stand ready to assist you however possible as you conclude the negotiation process at the district level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, stylized initial "R" and a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Rick Scott  
Governor