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**PLF Hails U.S. Supreme Court Decisions on Education Race Cases  
"Most Important Race Decisions Since Brown v. Board of Education"**

*Pacific Legal Foundation*

SACRAMENTO, CA; June 28, 2007: Today Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) hailed the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions, announced this morning, to strike down public schools' use of race in student assignments.

The Supreme Court decided that policies in Seattle and in Jefferson County, Kentucky, that use race in determining what public school a child may attend are patently unconstitutional.

PLF is amicus and part of petitioners' legal teams for both student-assignment cases – Seattle and Kentucky – decided by the United States Supreme Court today. PLF Principal Attorney Sharon Browne assisted the attorney for the mother in the Kentucky case at oral argument, sitting second chair, and PLF attorneys participated in every phase of the Seattle case including the oral argument when the Seattle case was before the Washington Supreme Court.

"These are the most important decisions on the use of race since Brown v. Board of Education," said Sharon Browne, PLF Principal Attorney. "Schools across our country must get the message loud and clear – our young people should not be assigned to a school based on the color of their skin."

For complete article click here:

<http://www.pacificlegal.org/?mvcTask=pressReleases&id=817&PHPSESSID=ee6609683f01178b fcb04df37ff96ef0>

*With the recent ruling handed down by the nation's highest court, children are not legally permitted to be assigned schools based upon race. While one may have thought this to have been resolved with Brown v. Board of Education, this practice is ongoing as PLF estimates over 1000 school districts nationwide will be forced to change their policies.*

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**Governor OK's tuition hike at 3 universities**

**Gov. Charlie Crist changed his position and agreed to raise tuition at UF, FSU and USF starting in fall 2008**

*Miami Herald*

By Noah Bierman and Mary Ellen Klas

High school students -- and their parents -- should prepare for steep tuition increases if they want to enroll at Florida's most popular universities beginning in fall 2008.

Gov. Charlie Crist reversed his position Wednesday on a significant debate with public university presidents, who have been arguing that Florida cannot afford to provide quality education if tuition remains among the cheapest in the country. He signed a bill that raises tuition at the University of Florida, Florida State and the University of South Florida by as much as \$1,000 within four years.

The new tuition law dramatically alters public higher education in Florida, ending the guarantee that top students can get free tuition through the Bright Futures Scholarship at any Florida school that accepts them. It also creates a sliding scale in price, meaning a UF education will no longer cost the same as a Florida Gulf Coast University education.

For complete article click here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/569/story/153765.html>

*Recently Gov. Crist reversed his previous decision on the freezing of university tuition rates after meeting with the presidents of some of the state's institutions of higher learning. Citing the need to remain competitive, this reversal was seen as a necessary step to provide universities with the funding needed to better prepare their growing student populations.*

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## Group gives Florida high and low marks for teacher quality

*Herald Tribune*

By Bill Kaczor

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida got a high mark of B for teacher evaluation and compensation Wednesday from a Washington, D.C.-based group that likes the state's use of student test scores to assess teachers and its pioneering merit pay program.

The state also received a C in four other areas but an F in preparing special education teachers in the National Council on Teacher Quality's first State Teacher Policy Yearbook.

The report got a cool reception from the Florida Department of Education, which said it includes factual errors, and the Florida Education Association, the statewide teachers union, which suggested the council has a conservative political agenda.

For complete article click here: <http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20070627/APN/706270980>

*Florida's education system was recently evaluated by a Washington-based organization and received a number of different grades ranging from B to F. Florida was praised for its teacher evaluation and compensation, but scolded for its preparation of special education teachers.*

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## Secretary Spellings Highlights Student Achievement at Supplemental Education Services and School Choice Summit

**Focuses on helping students improve, free tutoring services and options for parents under No Child Left Behind**

*June 27, 2007*

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings today delivered remarks at the National Summit on Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Public School Choice in Arlington, Va. She discussed the value of the school choice options and free tutoring available to families under No

Child Left Behind. She also announced the results of a study focusing on the achievement of students participating in SES in nine large urban districts.

"This report reinforces what I hear from parents from across the country—that SES is helping more students achieve," said Secretary Spellings. "SES is a lifeline for students who need more resources and parents who want more options. And research shows that students benefiting from SES are improving in both their reading and math skills."

The report, State and Local Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act: Volume I—Title I School Choice, Supplemental Educational Services, and Student Achievement, shows that SES is effective in improving student achievement and has an even greater impact as students continue in the program. There was not a large enough participation rate to get a clear picture of the effects on student achievement when students transfer under the public school choice provisions of the law. However, the research shows that students who did transfer schools under the public school choice provisions moved to higher-performing schools that were more racially balanced.

For complete press release click here:

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2007/06/06272007.html>

For full report click here:

<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/choice/implementation/achievementanalysis.pdf>

*This report shows the documented success of Supplemental Education Services. U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings attested to the program's strengths as well as other successes under school choice programs and the No Child Left Behind Act.*

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