

Gary Chartrand, *Chair*
John R. Padget, *Vice Chair*
Members
Ada G. Armas, M.D.
John A. Colon
Marva Johnson
Rebecca Fishman Lipsey
Andy Tuck

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart, Commissioner of Education

DATE: November 5, 2014

SUBJECT: **Information Regarding the Florida Standards Assessment English Language Arts Writing Component**

The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate recent decisions that have been made with regard to the administration of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) English Language Arts (ELA) Writing Component. Originally, the Department planned to conduct a computer-based FSA Writing Component field test in Grades 4-11 in order to support a computer-based operational FSA Writing Component in 2015-2016 and beyond. The original plan also called for the 2014-2015 operational FSA Writing Component to be paper-based in Grade 4, and computer-based in Grades 5-11. After receiving and evaluating valuable feedback from school district superintendents, educators, parents and other stakeholders in Florida, the following revisions to the FSA Writing Component mode of administration have been made:

- The Writing Component for Grades **4-7** will be paper-based in 2014-2015 for both the field test and the operational test.
- The Writing Component for Grades **8-11** will be computer-based in 2014-2015 for both the field test and the operational test.

The spring 2015 test administration window for the operational FSA ELA Writing Component (March 2-13, 2015) will not change for any grades. However, the decision to administer grades 4-7 tests on paper will affect the administration of the field test. The field test administration schedule has been revised as follows:

- The computer-based field test administration window for Grades 8-11 will still open on December 1, 2014, and close on December 19, 2014. However, the window will reopen from **January 5-February 13, 2015**. Schools may administer the computer-based field test in Grades 8-11 at any time during these timeframes.
- Materials for the paper-based administration for Grades 4-7 will arrive in districts no later than January 30, 2015. Schools may administer the **paper-based** field test from **February 2-13, 2015**.

Your district assessment coordinator will receive your district's list of schools selected for the field test no later than Thursday, November 6.

Also as a result of feedback received from stakeholders, adjustments are being made to the timing of the Writing Component. The Writing Component session length will be 90 minutes and students may continue working, if needed, up to 120 minutes. This timing decision applies to both the operational and field tests. Please remember that the operational test is a one-session test and the field test is composed of two sessions that will be administered over two days. Students do not need to take the sessions on consecutive days if this best meets the scheduling needs of a school.

Your district assessment coordinator will receive additional information from the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment, including administration details, FSA training opportunities and resources, and pickup dates for paper-based tests. The official Statewide Assessment Schedule and CBT Transition Chart have been updated and posted to the FSA Portal at www.fsassessments.org.

Please direct any questions or concerns about this information to the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment at 850-245-0513. Thank you for your continued support and feedback during this transitional year.

PS/vv

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
School District Assessment Coordinators