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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: June 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Online Portal and Resources for the Florida Standards Assessments

Contact Information

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The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the upcoming availability of the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) online portal, as well as the June release of some FSA resources, as promised in the Initial Assessment Timeline memorandum to superintendents dated May 2, 2014.

The FSA portal will be available for districts, schools, students, parents and the general public to access information about the new assessments at noon (Eastern) on Monday, June 30. In addition, the portal will serve as the primary location for school and district administrators to access resources for test administration and to conduct activities related to computer-based testing, test management and reporting. When it becomes available, you may access the portal at www.fsassessments.org. More information about portal functions will be provided as the portal is developed further, but I encourage you to become familiar with it, as it will be an essential tool as we move forward with the FSA program. Please remember that the State of Florida's official source for standards information, course descriptions and standards resources is CPALMS.

The following resources, along with those released in May, are now available on the portal:

- **Training Tests:** Training tests are designed to help students, parents and teachers become familiar with assessment question formats and the computer-based test (CBT) delivery system provided by the American Institutes for Research (AIR). The purpose of these training tests is to become familiar with the system, functionality, and item types; the tests are not intended to guide classroom instruction.
- **DRAFT Test Design Summary/Blueprints:** The test design summary and blueprints provide more detailed information about the assessments, including the percentage of items in each content category, cognitive complexity and approximate number of test items.
- **DRAFT Test Item Specifications:** Test item specifications define the content and format of the assessment and test items for each grade level and subject.

- **DRAFT Mathematics Policies and Materials:** This document describes policies and materials specific to the mathematics assessments, such as calculators and reference sheets.

Please note that the released training tests are designed to familiarize students and teachers with the computer-based testing environment. CBT accommodations are not yet available in these training tests, and you will notice that some features that were previously CBT accommodations are available for all students in the new system (e.g., zoom, color/contrast). We will release enhanced practice tests for student practice with accommodations this fall, in sufficient time for eligible students to become familiar with the accommodated features prior to testing. We will also provide guidance to districts on the types of accommodations that will be available on AIR's CBT delivery system. Information about additional practice tests to be developed for each grade level and subject will be released at a later date.

The DRAFT resources listed above are working, draft documents and they will be enhanced and updated over time. With respect to the draft Test Item Specifications, I have arranged for a public comment period in order to gather feedback on these documents. The public comment period will be open from noon on Monday, June 30, through 5 p.m. (Eastern) on Friday, September 5. I encourage you to have your district's teachers and staff review the documents and provide input, as their feedback is highly valued. The public comment form is located on the FSA portal.

It is also important to note that all of the resources on the portal are solely intended to familiarize teachers, students and the public with the organization of the assessment, the format of assessment items and the assessment directions. These resources are not intended to guide classroom instruction. Please remember that the State of Florida's official source for standards information, course descriptions and standards resources is [CPALMS](#). CPALMS is Florida's toolbox of information, vetted resources and interactive tools is intended to help educators effectively implement Florida's standards.

We are pleased to bring you these newest FSA resources as we continue to work on this important transition. You will continue to receive notifications pertaining to the new assessments as additional information and resources become available. In the meantime, if you have questions about the information in this memorandum, please contact the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment at 850-245-0513.

PS/vv

cc: Assistant School District Superintendents for Instruction
School District Assessment Coordinators
School District Accountability Coordinators