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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jeanine Blomberg, Commissioner of Education

DATE: August 31, 2007

SUBJECT: 2007-08 Florida Alternate Assessment and Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment Schedules

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) is pleased to announce the 2007-08 Florida Alternate Assessment and Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) schedules. This information is important for future planning; however, please recognize that there are many factors which may impact testing schedules, and we have tried to consider them all. Regrettably, we could not avoid some overlap in various testing periods. We suggest you share this schedule with schools and community groups in your district as soon as possible.

The statewide **Florida Alternate Assessment** is used to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities who are working on the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Access Points for Reading, Mathematics (Grades 3-10), and Writing (Grades 4, 8, & 10). The Science (Grades 5, 8, & 11) assessment will be linked to a combination of the Sunshine State Standards for Special Diploma Strand B, Standard 4 and the SSS science content areas. The administration of the assessment is scheduled to begin on *Monday, March 3, 2008*.

A field test for the Florida Alternate Assessment will take place *October 29-November 9, 2007*. During this time, teachers who have been trained on the Florida Alternate Assessment will administer the assessment to a sample of specific students in grades 3-11. A total of 4,500 students throughout the state will be included in the field test, stratified by grade, level of complexity, gender, and ethnicity.

The CELLA measures the growth of students classified as English Language Learners (ELLs) in mastering the skills in English they will need to succeed in school. Its administration is scheduled to begin on *Tuesday, April 22, 2008*.

The dates for the 2007-08 test administrations are shown below. The following schedule will allow for spring results of the Florida Alternate Assessment to be used in late June for standard setting.

- **Field Test Administration of the Florida Alternate Assessment** – All testing for Grades 3-11 will occur during the nine-day assessment window of **October 29-November 9, 2007**. Administered to a sample of 4,500 pre-determined students with significant cognitive disabilities, the test will include all four core subject areas: Reading, Mathematics (Grades 3-10), Writing (Grades 4, 8, & 10), and Science (Grades 5, 8, & 11).

- **Operational Test Administration of the Florida Alternate Assessment** – All testing for Grades 3-11 will occur during the twenty-day assessment window of **March 3-28, 2008**. The test will include all four core subject areas: Reading, Mathematics (Grades 3-10), Writing (Grades 4, 8, & 10), and Science (Grades 5, 8, & 11).

- **Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment** – The CELLA tests four areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These sections are included in each of the four test levels: Level A (Grades K-2), Level B (Grades 3-5), Level C (Grades 6-8), and Level D (Grades 9-12). The CELLA will be administered during the twenty-three-day assessment window of **April 22-May 24, 2008**.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the Florida Alternate Assessment, please contact Karen Denbroeder, Administrator of Special Programs Information and Evaluation, at 850-245-0475 (SunCom 205-0475) or at Karen.Denbroeder@fldoe.org. Questions relating to the CELLA should be directed to Lisa Saavedra, Executive Director of the Office of Academic Achievement through Language Acquisition, at 850-245-0417 (SunCom 205-0417) or at FloridaCELLA@fldoe.org.

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
Exceptional Student Education Directors
District Alternate Assessment Coordinators
District Coordinators of Assessment
District Coordinators of Accountability
Jay Pfeiffer, Deputy Commissioner, ARM
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Cheri Yecke, Chancellor