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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: February 28, 2013

SUBJECT: English Language Arts Formative Assessment System – Field Test

Contact Information:

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The English Language Arts Formative Assessment System Project is a Florida Race to the Top project that will provide support to teachers as they implement English Language Arts Common Core State Standards. The project initially focused on the development of teacher professional development toolkits and formative assessment tasks and rubrics for the K-5 Reading Foundational Skills Standards.

Thanks to the participation of teachers across Florida, the formative assessments developed by these teachers were piloted in November and December 2012. The next step is to complete a field test of the K-5 Reading Foundational Skills formative assessment tasks from April 1 through May 17, 2013.

The purpose of this letter is to request participation in, and provide information about, the field testing of formative assessment tasks. Field-test activities will include using the English Language Arts Repository to locate tasks and rubrics; implementing “real-world” tests of the tasks, rubrics, and professional development toolkits; and providing feedback for improvements to the content and system. Quantitative and qualitative feedback are gathered through system functionalities which include use of comments and a content rating system. Field testing will not include the collection of student data.

PAM STEWART
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We would appreciate your district's participation in this field test. Superintendents will nominate elementary school principals who will recommend teachers across grade levels to participate in the field test. Less-experienced teachers are ideal testing candidates.

Teachers participating in the field test will

- Participate in a WebEx training offered after school hours on how to search for and select formative assessment tasks, implement them, and provide feedback.
- Select formative assessment tasks to implement during the seven-week field-test window. (The English Language Arts Repository will be available two weeks before the field-test window so that teachers can select tasks that align with their instruction at that time.)
- Provide feedback within the English Language Arts Repository on the effectiveness of each task, using a five-star rating and entering comments in the repository.
- Submit exemplars of student work (without the student's name).
- Respond to a brief survey capturing their experiences with the field test.

Superintendents should forward this memorandum to principals they suggest to participate in this field test and email a list of participating schools, and the principal for each school, to Spring2013FieldTestRecruitment@ecollege.com. The principal at each school will be contacted with instructions on completing and submitting selected teacher registrations. This information must be received by March 15, 2013.

Thank you for your dedication and support for the English Language Arts Formative Assessment System. Your participation in this field test will ensure high-quality formative assessments for the Common Core State Standards.

PS/kp