

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Commissioner of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: October 25, 2013

SUBJECT: RFA for District Participation in ELA Formative Assessment Pilot

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2013-162

The Florida Department of Education is issuing the attached Request for Applications (RFA) to districts for participation in the English Language Arts (ELA) Repository and Formative Assessment System pilot that will take place in February 2014.

Districts may qualify for an award of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000, depending on the number of schools within the district that participate in the pilot. Participation is limited to classrooms in kindergarten through grade 8. Because the program is capped at \$100,000, district grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis until program funds are spent.

The grant requires:

- Completion and submission of a one-page agreement;
- Identification of schools within the district and teachers within each school to participate in the pilot;
- Teacher participation in a one-hour orientation on the ELA system;
- Teacher use of three formative assessment tasks in the system, with feedback on the tasks; and
- Teacher completion of a five- to ten-minute survey on the system.

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The department will track teacher participation in the pilot and pay the district upon successful completion of the requirements.

The pilot is an excellent opportunity for teachers to become familiar with a resource that should prove beneficial as they implement the ELA standards. We believe that teacher feedback on the system and its contents is a crucial component for ensuring that the tool is easy to use and meaningful.

We hope you will consider applying for the grant and participating in the pilot. We look forward to hearing from you.

PS/tg