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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Hershel Lyons

DATE: February 24, 2017

SUBJECT: Selection of New Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) for 2017-18; Implementation of Program and Training for Test Administrators

Contact Information

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DPS: 2017-27

Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes (F.S.), requires the Florida Department of Education to adopt a statewide kindergarten screening instrument that assesses the readiness of each student for kindergarten based on the performance standards adopted by the department under section 1002.67(1), F.S., for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK). The screening instrument, known as the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS), must be administered to all public school kindergarten students within the first 30 days of each school year. Nonpublic schools may administer FLKRS to each kindergarten student who was previously enrolled in VPK.

Commissioner Stewart recently announced her intent to award Renaissance Learning the new contract for the administration of FLKRS beginning in the 2017-18 school year. The assessment that will be used is STAR Early Literacy, which some Florida districts have previously adopted. The assessment is an online, adaptive instrument that students complete independently in approximately 15-20 minutes. The results from the new FLKRS instrument will also be used in calculating the kindergarten readiness rates for the VPK Program, as has been done previously.

The department is working with the contractor to plan for online resources and training for school staff who will administer the test. In addition, five regional train-the-trainer workshops are being planned for June, tentatively in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa and Miami. Both online and face-to-face training will focus on operation of the new FLKRS testing platform, test administration, system requirements, online resources, reports and other information needed to effectively and securely administer the new screener.

In the coming weeks, you will receive additional information on the new FLKRS program, including links to online resources and the dates, times and locations for the regional trainings.

HL/vv

HERSHEL LYONS
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS