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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 13, 2020  
**TO:** School District Superintendents  
**FROM:** Jacob Oliva  
**SUBJECT:** Adoption and Implementation of the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards

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**DPS: 2020-26**

On February 12, 2020, the State Board of Education amended Rule 6A-1.09401, Florida Administrative Code, *Student Performance Standards*, to adopt the B.E.S.T. Standards for English language arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades K-12. These new standards are posted along with summary documents at [www.fldoe.org/standardsreview](http://www.fldoe.org/standardsreview).

A three-year implementation timeline was also presented at the State Board meeting. It has been updated for additional clarification and is shown below.

*Most Aggressive*  
**Transition Timeline in Florida's History**

	<i>2020-2021</i>	<i>2021-2022</i>	<i>2022-2023</i>
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<i>Begins for ELA and Math</i>	<i>Continues for ELA and Math</i>	<i>Continues for ELA and Math</i>
STANDARDS	Current ELA and Math	<i>New K-2 ELA</i> Current 3-12 ELA Current K-12 Math	<i>New ELA and Math</i>
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION PROCESS	<i>K-12 ELA</i>	<i>K-12 Math</i>	<i>K-12 Social Studies</i>
CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION	Current ELA and Math*	<i>New K-2 ELA</i> Current 3-12 ELA* Current K-12 Math*	<i>New ELA and Math</i>
STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS	Current ELA and Math	Current ELA and Math	<i>New ELA and Math</i>

\* Recommended since current statewide assessments still in place, but this is a district decision.

By 2022-2023, Florida classrooms will have fully transitioned to the B.E.S.T. Standards, including aligned materials and aligned statewide assessments.

JACOB OLIVA  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Professional development for teachers will begin in the 2020-2021 school year to support the implementation timeline. Professional development should continue during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years to ensure full implementation prior to the new statewide assessment during the 2022-2023 school year.

The department will call for a K-12 ELA instructional materials adoption to take place during the 2020-2021 school year. State-adopted K-12 ELA materials will be available for districts to purchase during the 2021-2022 school year. The K-12 mathematics instructional materials adoption will take place during 2021-2022 school year. State-adopted K-12 mathematics materials will be available for districts to purchase during the 2022-2023 school year.

During the 2021-2022 school year, districts should implement the K-2 ELA standards. While teachers will begin training on the new standards and districts will have their newly aligned K-12 ELA materials, it is important to remember that ELA 3-10 will be assessed on the old standards. Districts will have to make instructional and curricular decisions to make sure their students are prepared.

Full implementation of both K-12 ELA and K-12 Mathematics B.E.S.T. Standards with corresponding instructional materials will occur in the 2022-2023 school year. This corresponds with the first year of statewide assessments aligned to the new standards.

Each district school board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials used in a classroom, whether adopted and purchased from the state-adopted instructional materials list, adopted and purchased through a district instructional materials program under section 1006.283, Florida Statutes, or otherwise purchased or made available in the classroom.

We appreciate all of the contributions of school district staff and teachers to bring you the B.E.S.T. Standards, and we look forward to working with you on successful implementation.

JO/he