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April 27, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Mary Laura Openshaw
Director, Just Read, Florida!

SUBJECT: Early Literacy Assessment (DIBELS) and the Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network (PMRN)

The Department of Education commissioned the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) to develop a web-based data management system for entering and interpreting student assessment data from the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) as required by Florida's *Reading First* grant. All schools receiving a *Reading First* grant must use DIBELS and the Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network (PMRN). Staff from FCRR are communicating with MIS staff from each of the *Reading First* districts to discuss procedures for using the PMRN in *Reading First* schools. This system operates from a secure website at FCRR and is designed to provide comprehensive data reports to parents and educators on DIBELS and other assessment requirements of *Reading First*.

Although specifically designed for *Reading First* schools, the PMRN also will be made available this coming year to other districts and schools that have received training in DIBELS from the FCRR or Project CENTRAL at the University of Central Florida.

MARY LAURA OPENSHAW

DIRECTOR, JUST READ, FLORIDA!

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This memorandum is intended to inform you of the availability of this system to specific non-*Reading First* schools in your district. Non-*Reading First* schools eligible for using the PMRN are those enrolled in the PMRN for this current school year, those that have received DIBELS training using the FCRR-designed training model, and those that will have received DIBELS training prior to the first 20 school days of the 2004-2005 school year. Participating schools must agree to follow the *Reading First* assessment schedule by including all kindergarten – third grade students in the DIBELS assessment program and entering scores for all students into the PMRN during the four assessment periods. Schools must also order DIBELS scoring forms by June 1, 2004 and register for the PMRN by July 9.

In order to set up non-*Reading First* schools to use the PMRN system in 2004 - 2005, it is important that designated staff from your office contact Mr. Karl Hook, Director of Technical Projects for the FCRR, at 850-644-0931 or by email at khook@fcrr.org on or before **July 9, 2004**. Mr. Hook then will contact your MIS office staff to review procedures for uploading student information into the PMRN system.

Any non-*Reading First* school or district interested in using the DIBELS testing materials as required by users of the PMRN, will obtain scoring forms and student probes by completing an order form posted at the following address: <http://www.fcrr.org/assessment/>. The form is posted under the section entitled “Florida’s Reading First Assessment Plan.” The FCRR has negotiated a price of \$1.00 per student per year for non-*Reading First* schools. Non-*Reading First* school/district orders for 2004 – 2005 must be placed by **June 1, 2004**, a date that is more than one month prior to the closeout date for setting up the PMRN system. Because the FCRR is responsible for ordering the DIBELS forms for *Reading First* schools, districts should not include *Reading First* schools in their order for non-*Reading First* schools.

Information about DIBELS training opportunities and requirements may be directed to Dr. Pat Howard, Director of Assessment Programs for FCRR, at 850-644-8129 or by email at poward@fcrr.org. Any questions about the ordering of forms for non-*Reading First* schools should be directed to the Sopris West contact noted on the order form.

Additional information about the PMRN is available at the following web address: <http://www.fcrr.org/pmrn/>, and more detailed descriptions of reading assessments and related training can be obtained from <http://www.fcrr.org/assessment/>.

Cc: Directors of Management Information Services
Directors of Elementary Education