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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
Kindergarten Teachers

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: August 30, 2012

SUBJECT: **Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener**

As the 2012-13 school year begins, the Department of Education would like to provide an update on the importance of the administration of the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS). As you are aware, during the first thirty days of kindergarten, you will be administering this assessment to Florida's kindergarten students. The Department would like to communicate the following information on the importance of this assessment.

FLKRS results are used by the Department to evaluate the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education program in addition to providing teachers and parents with information about the readiness of kindergarten students. In order to have the best possible administration of the FLKRS, the Department would like to reinforce the importance of the following elements:

- Each kindergarten student is screened fairly and accurately in accordance with the guidelines established by the Florida Department of Education in the FLKRS Test Administration Manual, which is available to all kindergarten teachers on the following website: http://www.fcrr.org/pmrn/flkrs/index.shtm.
- Each kindergarten student is screened on **both** the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) and the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) portions of the FLKRS.
- The kindergarten teacher administering the FLKRS **cannot** have been the kindergarten student's VPK teacher. Schools that operate both VPK and kindergarten classes need to be very careful to keep those programs separate as it relates to FLKRS.
- Every effort is made to record accurate and valid data for the FLKRS program.

The Department applauds your efforts to educate Florida's kindergarten students and instill in them the skills that will help prepare each child with a foundation for success throughout their academic careers.

We wish you a great 2012-13 school year. Thank you for the hard work you do each and every day in the classroom.

MJT/cy