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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: October 2, 2012

SUBJECT: **English Language Arts Formative Assessment System Project – Pilot Test**

The English Language Arts Formative Assessment System Project is a Florida Race to the Top project that will provide support to teachers as they implement the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards. The project initially focused on the development of teacher professional development toolkits and formative assessment tasks and rubrics for the K-5 Reading Foundational Skills Standards. Thanks to the participation of teachers from across Florida, 64 formative assessments have been developed and are ready to pilot between November 26 and December 14, 2012.

The purpose of this letter is to request participation in, and provide information about, the piloting of formative assessment tasks and professional development toolkits. Piloting activities will include using the English Language Arts Repository to locate the tasks and rubrics; implementing "real-world" tests of the tasks, rubrics and professional development toolkits; and providing feedback in order to make improvements to the tasks, rubrics, toolkits, and teacher information. The feedback will include a star rating system and comments submitted by each teacher that pilots the tasks. Piloting will not include collecting student data.

Pearson plans for up to 50 classroom sites for the pilot. A single school may have two or three classrooms participate in which each teacher will implement multiple tasks over the course of the fifteen-day pilot. These tasks include considerations for English language learners (ELLs), so teachers who teach ELL students are encouraged to participate.

We would appreciate your district's participation in this pilot. Each district interested in participating will need to nominate an elementary school where the school principal will recommend up to three teachers (one from grades K-1, one from grades 2-3, and one from grades 4-5) to participate. Less-experienced teachers are ideal piloting candidates.

Teachers participating in the pilot will

- Participate in a 90-minute WebEx training offered after school hours on how to search for and select formative assessment tasks, implement them, and provide feedback.
- Select approximately three formative assessment tasks to implement during the three-week pilot window. (The English Language Arts Repository will be available three weeks before the pilot window so that teachers can select tasks that align with their instruction at that time.)
- Provide feedback within the English Language Arts Repository on the effectiveness of each task, using a five star rating and entering comments in the repository.
- Respond to a brief survey capturing their experiences with the pilot.

To indicate participation in the pilot, please complete the registration form at www.fcrr.org/pilotapp/. This information must be received by October 12, 2012.

Thank you for your dedication and support for this portion of the English Language Arts Formative Assessment System. Your participation in this pilot will ensure high-quality formative assessments for the Common Core State Standards.

PS/kpy