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**DPS: 2015-02**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Pam Stewart

**DATE:** January 16, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Monthly Florida Standards Updates**

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE), Division of Public Schools, is excited to announce monthly updates pertaining to the Florida Standards as well as any relative Florida Standards initiatives, events, or activities! The purpose of these updates is to:

- Provide up-to-date information on the Florida Standards
- Provide information and support on the implementation process
- Create and maintain a forum for communication between stakeholders and the FDOE for effective Florida Standards Implementation

This Week's Updates

- **January is National Mentoring Month.**
  http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/mediacenter/toolkits

- **Encourage students be a part of National Mentoring Month through the Florida Standards.** Find creative and fun ways to teach the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Florida Standards through assignments that focus on mentoring. **See suggestions below:**
  - **ELA Florida Standard: LAFS. 8.W.1.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic**
    - For example, have students research, compose and type a one-page informative/explanatory essay on the concept of "mentoring;" **or**
    - Use the following CPALMs link for more related resources for teaching this standard.
      - http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewStandard/Preview/6061#/#icts-toggle
  - **Math Florida Standard MAFS.7.SP.2.3 – Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations**
    - For example, using online data and statistics on the outcomes and benefits of mentoring relationships, have students compare research on young people that have been mentored versus those that have not. Students may then summarize their findings in a brief written report; **or**
    - Use the following CPALMs link for more related resources for teaching this standard.
      - http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewStandard/Preview/5482#/#icts-toggle


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- **Celebrate Literacy Week! – January 26-30, 2015.**
  - We are already building excitement for Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! (CLW). Our theme, "Reading Accelerates Success," encourages our students to connect literacy with all kinds of careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
  - For more information and resources, click on the following link, or visit the **Just Read, Florida! (JRF)** via http://www.fldoe.org .
    - http://fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/celebrate-literacy-week

- **Course Descriptions should be the core of pacing guides and lesson plans.**
  - Have teachers and students (grades 6-12) keep a printed copy of their course descriptions for quick and easy reference.
  - Adhering to Course Descriptions with fidelity will help ensure success on the Florida Standards Assessments.
  - Course Descriptions may be accessed by clicking on the following link via CPALMS.
    - http://www.cpalms.org/Public/search/Course

- **Use Best Practice to help struggling readers with reading texts for FSA Writing**
  - Have students employ "close reading" strategies while reading the directions (i.e. writing task) for open-ended essay questions. These strategies will help them to understand exactly what they are being asked to do and answer all parts of the question accurately and completely.
  - Require students to "stop and think" about what the exact writing task is, and use those directions as a guide for reading and identifying relevant facts and details from the text(s).
  - Require students to extract information from the texts they are reading and incorporate that information into their writing as a part of daily instruction across the curriculum.
  - These "Best Practices" can be easily infused across the curriculum within content area and Career & Technical courses through the use of various types of informational texts.
- All of the Florida Standards may be accessed by clicking on the following link via CPALMS.
  - http://www.cpalms.org/Public/search/Standard

We encourage your participation and believe this communication tool will be beneficial to the successful implementation of the Florida Standards. Please contact Dr. Denise Barrett, K-12 director of standards implementation, at (850) 245- 9526 or denise.barrett@fldoe.org for more information.

PS/db

cc: School District Directors of Curriculum
School District Standards Leads
School District Directors of Professional Development


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