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Contact Information:
Denise Barrett
850-245-9526
Denise.Barrett@fldoe.org
DPS: 2015-15

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: February 13, 2015

SUBJECT: **Monthly Florida Standards Updates**

The Florida Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, is excited to announce Florida Standards updates for the month of February.

This Month's Updates:

- **February is Black History Month –** We encourage you to explore the following link for information, historical facts and exciting activities for teachers to use in their classrooms:
  - **http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/**

- **Encourage students to be a part of Black History Month through the Florida Standards –** Teach the Florida Standards through assignments that focus on events, historical figures and notable achievements in Black History. **See suggestions below:**

  - **ELA Florida Standard: LAFS. 910.RH.1.2 – Analyze a series of events in detail described in a text**

    - For example, have students analyze a timeline of notable events in African-American history and determine how each event impacted the succeeding event on the timeline; **or**
    - Use the following CPALMS link for more related resources for teaching this standard. **http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewResource/Preview/59557**

  - **Math Florida Standard MAFS.2.MD. 3.8 – Measurement & Data – Working with Money**

    - Use the following CPALMS link for more related resources for teaching this standard. **http://www.cpalms.org/Public/PreviewStandard/Preview/5349#/#icts-toggle**
    - Watch the following informative video from our "We Can Do This, Florida!" mathematics video series which features an outstanding Florida teacher instructing his class through this math standard. **https://www.youtube.com/watch?x-yt-ts=1421914688&v=sJgHLA-3Y00&x-yt-cl=84503534**
    - The entire "We Can Do This, Florida!" video collection may be found under the Video Gallery tab at www.flstandards.org.
    - We encourage you to share these instructional videos with teachers and parents.

- **K-8 English Language Arts Formative Assessment System (an instructional resource) now available through Single Sign-On**

    - The Florida Language Arts Formative Assessment System (ELFAS) is an instructional resource created to support the statewide implementation of the English Language Arts Florida Standards (ELAFS).

    - Designed for teachers in Florida, this resource is a database of K-8 formative assessment tasks and professional development information.

    - ELFAS offers research-based professional development that enhances the teachers' knowledge of the ELAFS and the use of Formative Assessments by equipping teachers with the knowledge to implement formative assessment tasks within their instructional cycle.

    - Used during instruction, formative assessments provide teachers with observable evidence essential to the evaluation of students' existing skills, knowledge, misconceptions and reasoning.

    - Please encourage teachers to view the Professional Development Toolkits and Modules that support the implementation of the ELAFS as a first step to understanding and utilizing the ELA Formative Assessments and formative instructional practices in their classrooms.

- **Explore the Power of CPALMS**

    - CPALMS is an online toolbox of information, vetted resources and interactive tools that helps educators effectively implement teaching standards.

    - It is the state of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions.

    - We encourage everyone to explore the power of CPALMS. The resources are inspiring, empowering and exciting. CPALMS is an effective, user-friendly resource specifically designed to support Florida Standards implementation and instruction.

We welcome your feedback and believe this communication tool will be beneficial to the successful implementation of the Florida Standards. Please contact K-12 Director of Standards Implementation Dr. Denise Barrett 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