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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: John L. Winn

DATE: May 30, 2003

SUBJECT: 2003-2004 Statewide Assessment Schedule

The 2002-2003 test administrations have been successfully completed and we thank each of you for implementing the assessment program. The good news that FCAT scores are rising at most grade levels means that the children of Florida are mastering the challenging content of the Sunshine State Standards. The suggestions that many of you have shared over the past several years have contributed to the overall success of the state assessment program. We appreciate your input and hope that you will continue to provide comments on ways the assessment program can be improved.

Attached to this memorandum you will find the schedule for the 2003-2004 statewide assessment program. The schedule for next year is similar to the schedule implemented in 2002-2003. Please share this information with schools and community groups in your district as soon as possible.

The FCAT schedule described here will permit test data to be provided in mid-May and contains the following features:

- Writing will be administered February 10, 2004.
- The testing and make-up administrations for reading, mathematics and science will be March 1-12, 2004.
- The Department recommends a Wednesday, March 10, date for the norm-referenced parts of the FCAT; however, districts may choose to administer this part of the test on any day(s) during the testing period on which there are no Sunshine State Standards sessions scheduled by the Department.

JOHN L. WINN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, AND MEASUREMENT

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Please note that students identified as those for whom the HSCT is the appropriate graduation requirement and who have been continuously enrolled may continue to participate in the HSCT. In addition, those for whom the HSCT is the appropriate graduation requirement and who have accepted a Certificate of Completion may continue to participate in future HSCT administrations. The Department has recently selected Florida State University as the administration contractor for the HSCT program for the next two years, beginning with the October 2003 administration. In the future, we anticipate that the HSCT will be administered at a very limited number of sites.

Both state law (s 1008.22 (2)F.S.) and the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 require Florida's participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). As in previous years, the NAEP will be administered only in a sample of schools throughout the state. If schools in your district are selected for participation, your district coordinator of assessment will be notified according to the schedule provided by the Florida NAEP coordinator.

Additional details about the 2003-2004 assessment program will be provided at the annual meeting of the District Coordinators of Assessment, which is scheduled for August 27 in Tampa. More information regarding the annual meeting will be provided to your district coordinator in June.

If you have any questions about the 2003-2004 testing schedule, please contact Victoria Wagner. If your questions are related specifically to the national assessment program, please contact Michele Sonnenfeld, the Florida NAEP coordinator. You may contact them via e-mail at Victoria.Wagner@fldoe.org or Michele.Sonnenfeld@fldoe.org, respectively. They may both be reached by telephone at 850/245-0513 or SunCom 205-0513.

JLW:cso

Attachment

cc: District Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Coordinators of Assessment

FLORIDA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
2003 - 2004 SCHEDULE

HIGH SCHOOL COMPETENCY TEST
Eligible Students Only

OCTOBER 6 - 17, 2003
JANUARY 5 - 16, 2004
MARCH 8 - 19, 2004
JUNE 21 - JULY 2, 2004

FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST

OCTOBER 6 - 10, 2003	Grades 11 - Adult (New Students/Retakes)	Reading & Mathematics Sunshine State Standards Tests
FEBRUARY 10, 2004	Grades 4, 8, and 10	Writing
MARCH 1 - 12, 2004	Grades 3 - 10	Reading & Mathematics Sunshine State Standards and Norm-Referenced Tests
	Grades 5, 8, and 10	Science Sunshine State Standards Tests
MARCH 1 - 12, 2004	Grades 11 - Adult (New Students/Retakes)	Reading & Mathematics Sunshine State Standards Tests
JUNE 21 - 25, 2004	**Rising*** Grade 12 - Adult (New Students/Retakes)	Reading & Mathematics Sunshine State Standards Tests

***Students scheduled to graduate in May/June 2005**

OTHER ASSESSMENTS/SCREENINGS

FALL 2003	School Readiness Uniform Screening System (To be administered within 45 calendar days of the first day of school)
DECEMBER 2003	FCAT Writing Assessment Field Test (selected schools only)
OCTOBER 2003 - MAY 2004 (Specific Dates TBD)	National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) (selected schools only)