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October 7, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

SUBJECT: Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading: 2008-2009

During 2007-2008, the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) partnered with the Just Read, Florida! Office of the Florida Department of Education to develop a new K-12 reading assessment system for Florida. Accordingly, FCRR testers field-tested screening, diagnostic, and ongoing progress monitoring items during the 2007-2008 school year in Leon, Alachua, and Manatee counties. These counties were selected based on the fact that their demographics are representative of Florida and the availability of local coordinators and testers. Statistical analyses were performed during the summer of 2008 and administration manuals and assessment materials were prepared. In grades K-2, teachers administer the assessment tasks to students individually. In grades 3-12, the assessments are adaptive and delivered on Internet-connected computers.

During 2008-2009, FCRR is conducting an implementation study in the same three counties, along with a fourth county—Broward—to add a large district in south Florida. The purpose of an implementation study is to have teachers administer the assessment and provide feedback on the format, procedures, and instructional utility of the assessment tasks. During the final assessment period in the spring, 2009, a computer-based application for the grades K-2 assessment system and a new version of the PMRN for grades K-12 will be piloted. The Florida Assessment for Instruction in Reading will be provided free of charge to Florida schools starting in the 2009-2010 school year.

FH/ebl

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK

CHANCELLOR, DIVISION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS