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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Tony Bennett

DATE: April 10, 2013

SUBJECT: **Private School and Out-of-State Transfer Student Participation in Florida End-of-Course Assessments**

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your dedication to your district's students and for the support that you provide school and district staff during this busy time of year. As you know, the spring assessment season is approaching, and I wanted to share a decision with you regarding private school and out-of-state student participation in Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments that will benefit both your district and students who plan to transfer into your schools. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that, **beginning with the Spring 2013 EOC assessment administration, private school and out-of-state students who will enroll in a Florida public school may participate in the Algebra 1, Biology 1 and Geometry EOC Assessments**.

As you are no doubt aware, State Board Rule 6A-1.09941 (State Uniform Transfer of High School Credits) states that a transfer student in a cohort that requires a passing score on the Algebra 1, Biology 1 or Geometry EOC Assessment must participate in and pass that assessment to earn credit in the course, unless the student has passed a standardized assessment in another state that meets specified criteria (see "High School Assessments by State" at http://www.fldoe.org/BII/StudentPro/pdf/StateExitChart.pdf). This past year, concerns were raised by parents, educators and several school districts regarding the policy that these students are not permitted to participate in EOC assessments until they are enrolled in a Florida public school, as enrollment and testing would likely occur several months or even years after students

received instruction and completed work in a course. While I certainly understand that testing these students prior to enrollment will result in additional work for school and district staff, allowing these students to test is the right thing to do because it will:

- Provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate mastery in a course at the end of their instruction;
- Allow students to earn course credit and meet a graduation requirement prior to enrollment in a public school, which will aid with scheduling and instructional decisions for students;
- Reduce remedial efforts for these students in the fall;
- Allow for schools to provide the best educational options for transfer students; and
- Create a welcome environment for students who will transfer into your schools.

I strongly encourage you to offer these students the opportunity to participate in EOC assessments for the reasons listed above. The Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment will provide further guidance regarding computer-based test setup and scheduling options for these students, as well as other test administration and scoring information, to help this new process go as smoothly as possible in your district.

Again, thank you and all the educators in your district for your hard work to ensure that the best educational opportunities are available to the students you serve now and those you will serve in the future.

TB/va

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Assessment and Accountability Coordinators