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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: July 15, 2013

SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ITEM TRYOUTS FOR THE FLORIDA INTERIM ASSESSMENT ITEM BANK AND TEST PLATFORM IN OCTOBER 2013

Contact Information

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As part of Florida's Race to the Top grant award, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has contracted with Pearson to develop the Florida Interim Assessment Item Bank and Test Platform. During the past year, more than 500 Florida educators have been working to write and review assessment items that will become part of this statewide system. Additional information about this project is available online at <http://www.fldoe.org/arra/racetothetop/assessments/>.

In order to obtain item-level assessment data for the initial items that are part of the Interim Assessment Item Bank and Test Platform, we invite school districts to volunteer to participate in item try-outs in October 2013. Although the system will eventually allow the creation of assessments that may be either paper-and-pencil forms or computer-based tests, the fall 2013 tryouts will be only given as computer-based tests. The attached document has minimum system requirements for the computer systems used for testing.

For these item tryouts and based on the time of year for this project, we are asking school districts to select classes of students who have already completed the instruction for these content areas. For example, students testing Algebra 1 assessment items would be students who have already completed Algebra 1. Likewise, students testing grade 2 assessment items should be students who have completed grade 2.

School District Superintendents

July 15, 2013

Page Two

We have set up these tryouts so that they can be completed within one 50-minute class period. Districts who volunteer to participate will receive support from the department in setting up class rosters and test administrator accounts in order to conduct the tryouts. After students have completed testing, instructors will be able to see the results immediately. Districts do not have to use these test scores in any way.

Districts interested in participating may register to participate at <http://www.cvent.com/d/wcq571>.

We would request all interested volunteers submit their forms at the above link no later than July 31, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact Todd Clark at 850-245-0764 or by email Todd.Clark@fldoe.org or Michelle Worrell at 850-245-7813 or by email Michelle.Worrell@fldoe.org.

PS/tc