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MEMORANDUM

To: School District Superintendents

From: Pam Stewart

Date: August 16, 2013

Subject: Revisions to the 2013–14 Statewide Assessment Schedule and delayed release of the 2014–15 Statewide Assessment Schedule

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce revisions to the 2013–14 Statewide Assessment Schedule, as well as a delayed release of the 2014–15 schedule.

As you know, Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, states, "When establishing the schedules for the administration of statewide assessments, the commissioner shall consider the observance of religious and school holidays." The Spring 2014 FCAT 2.0 schedule was initially developed to avoid testing during religious holidays (Passover and Good Friday), and, on the original schedule, testing was not scheduled to begin until April 22. However, we received feedback from districts after the Spring 2013 administrations indicating that, based on scheduling and capacity challenges experienced this past year, next year's currently published schedule will make it very difficult to complete computer-based testing due to the overlap of FCAT 2.0 and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and the addition of three computer-based tests in 2014 (grade 6 mathematics, grade 8 reading, and Civics). In an effort to offer more scheduling flexibility yet still accommodate students and staff who observe religious holidays, the department has made the following revisions to the Spring 2014 testing schedule:

FCAT 2.0 Assessments

- **April 14 – May 7**
    - Districts must choose a start date for **each grade level/subject test** within this window. Each district will have eight school days to complete each subject test, including make-ups, based on the district's chosen start date.
    - Districts who wish to postpone testing until after the Passover holiday or suspend testing during Passover or on Good Friday may do so, but this may not allow for the full eight school days of testing for each grade level/subject test. If extensions beyond the scheduled end/pickup dates below are requested and granted, results for makeup tests returned/completed later than the dates below will be included in late reporting.
    - Subject tests must be completed/returned by the following dates:

      Paper-Based Tests
        - Grade 3 Reading and Mathematics
            - **April 28 – 30**
        - Grade 4 Reading and Mathematics, Grade 5 Reading and Science, Grade 7 Mathematics, Grade 8 Mathematics and Science
            - **April 30 – May 2**

      Computer-Based Tests
        - Grade 6 Reading, Grade 7 Reading, Grade 10 Reading
            - **May 2** (computer-based end date)
            - **May 3** (paper-based pickup date)
        - Grade 5 Mathematics, Grade 6 Mathematics, Grade 8 Reading, Grade 9 Reading
            - **May 7** (computer-based end date)
            - **May 8** (paper-based pickup date for all districts)
    - Districts must establish a district-wide testing plan and submit it to the department for approval. Districts will receive more information regarding the deadline and method for submitting this information from the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment.
    - The dates for the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake (April 7–11) will not change.

Spring End-of-Course Assessments

- **April 21 – May 23**
    - The EOC testing window for all subjects will open on April 21.
    - Subject tests must be completed by the following dates:
        - U.S. History and Civics
            - **May 9** (computer-based end date)
            - **May 6** (paper-based pickup date)
        - Biology 1 and Algebra 1
            - **May 16** (computer-based end date)

        - **May 13** (paper-based pickup date)
    - Geometry
        - **May 23** (computer-based end date)
        - **May 20** (paper-based pickup date)
- Each subject test must be completed within a **school**, rather than the district, before the next subject test may begin. The subject order is U.S. History and Civics (may test concurrently) → Biology 1 → Algebra 1 → Geometry.
- The Statewide Makeup Days for Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History will be moved from June 2–6 to **May 27–30**.
- The Statewide Makeup Day for Geometry will be **Monday, June 2**.

Summer End-of-Course Assessments

- **July 14 – 25**
    - Because of the addition of a Fall EOC administration, we are moving the Summer EOC window from July 21 – August 8 to July 14 – 25. This will ensure that scores are reported prior to the first day of school and give more time for remediation prior to the fall administration.
    - Subject tests do not need to be completed in a designated order for the summer administration. Since this provides more scheduling flexibility, the window has been shortened to two weeks.

It is our hope that these revisions will help each school district establish a testing schedule that best meets the needs of its students.

In addition, please remember that there will be a fourth administration of EOC assessments in the fall beginning this school year. The September 16-27, 2013 administration has been added to the official assessment schedule. You may access the revised 2013-14 schedule at http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6453/clarif1213release1314a.pdf.

As you know, the department is required to release the assessment schedule for a school year one full year prior to the beginning of that school year. As you also know, the 2014-15 school year is when Florida will transition from FCAT 2.0 Reading and Mathematics and EOC Mathematics assessments to assessments that measure student achievement of the Common Core Standards in these subject areas. At this time, we are still making plans for these new assessments. Since we have not yet finalized these plans, we will not release a schedule for the 2014-15 school year until we do so. We will administer the FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake in the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015, Biology 1, Civics, and U.S. History EOC Assessments and Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC Assessments (for students still required to take them) in fall and winter of 2014 and spring and summer of 2015, and FCAT 2.0 Grades 5 and 8 Science in spring of 2015. The schedules for

these assessments have not been set in order to avoid possible conflicts with the new assessments.

Please share this information with schools and community groups in your district as soon as possible. If you have questions or concerns regarding the FCAT 2.0 or Florida EOC Assessment schedules, please contact the Bureau of K-12 Student Assessment at 850-245-0513.

Thank you for your support and diligence in implementing our statewide assessment program. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming school year.

PS/wk

cc: School District Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
School District Assessment Coordinators
Will Krebs