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May 21, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents
Members, Florida Partnership for School Readiness
Chairs, Local School Readiness Coalitions

FROM: Jim Horne

SUBJECT: Results of 2002 Administration – School Readiness Uniform Screening System (SRUSS)

We are pleased to provide you with copies of the *Florida School Readiness Uniform Screening System: State Report of District Results, Fall 2002* which represents the outcome of our inaugural year of implementation of this screening system. Florida law, sections 411.01(4)(o)-(p) and 1008.21, Florida Statutes, require the Department of Education to implement a statewide system of developmental screening for all first-time kindergarten students. This was accomplished through the administration of the *Early Screening Inventory-Kindergarten (ESI-K)*, which was administered to all of Florida's kindergarten students, and either the *Ready-for-School Behavioral Screener* or the *Work Sampling System*, which were selected by the district. These instruments were selected, through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process, as being appropriate measures of the "expectations for school readiness" listed in section 411.04(4)(o)3-17., Florida Statutes.

This report includes the results from both of these instruments. It should be noted, however, that the results for the *ESI-K* and the *Ready-for-School Behavioral Screener* or the *Work Sampling System* are reported separately, as it is inappropriate to aggregate the results of the two instruments.

READINESS CATEGORIES USED FOR REPORTING

The results of the *ESI-K* were calculated by using the teacher ratings of the 19 activities performed by the students. Scores are reported in the following readiness categories:

- **Ready Now** - the development and abilities of these students were within the range of what is expected for children of this age
- **Getting Ready** - there were other factors that influenced the student's performance on the day of screening
- **Not Ready Yet** - age appropriate development was not evidenced during the screening

The results for the *Ready-for-School Behavioral Screener* were determined by the teachers' checklist ratings of the clusters of 93 items that were grouped into 14 standards. Scores are reported in the following readiness categories:

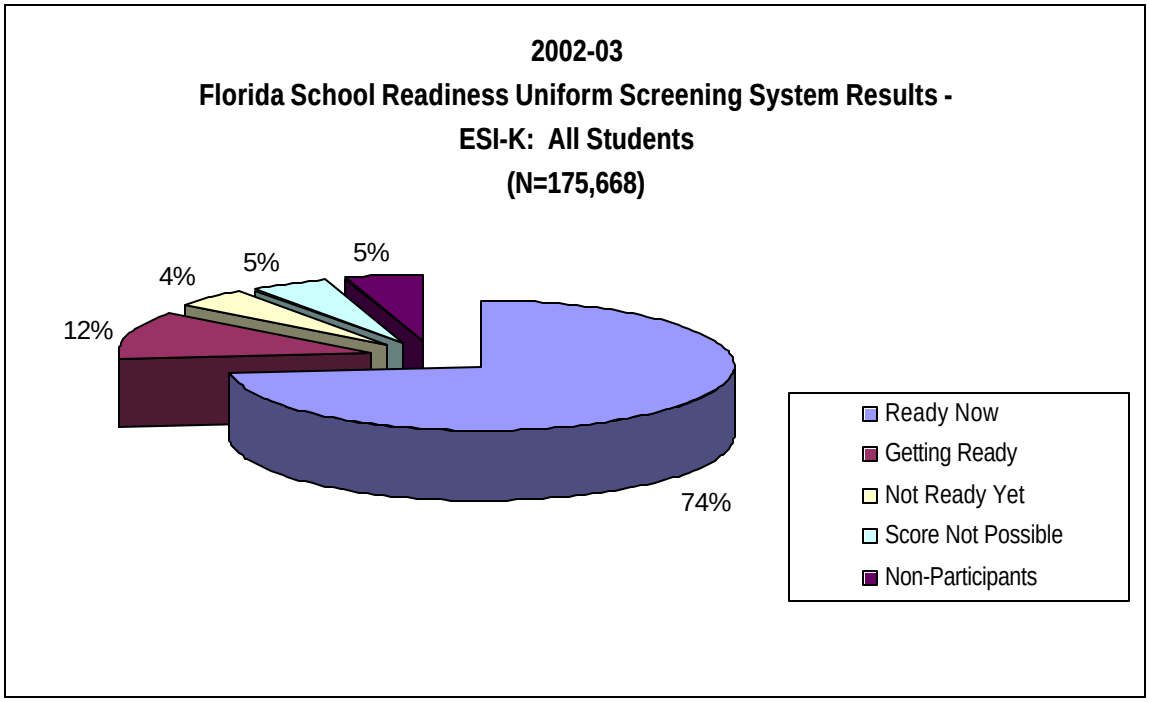
- **Proficient (P)** – demonstrated proficiency of needed skill
- **Competent (C)** - development is proceeding at an adequate pace
- **Emerging (E)** – may require additional instruction to more fully acquire needed skills

The results for the *Work Sampling System* were determined by the teachers' ratings of the performance indicators in five domains. Scores are reported in the following readiness categories:

- **Proficient (P)** – the skill was demonstrated
- **In Process (I)** – the skill was not demonstrated consistently
- **Not Yet (N)** – the skill was not demonstrated

2002-03 FLORIDA SRUSS RESULTS - ESI-K: ALL STUDENTS

The graphic below depicts state summary information for the administration of the Early Screening Inventory-Kindergarten (ESI-K) to all students. These data were also included in the Florida Partnership for School Readiness' 2002 Annual Report, released in March 2003.

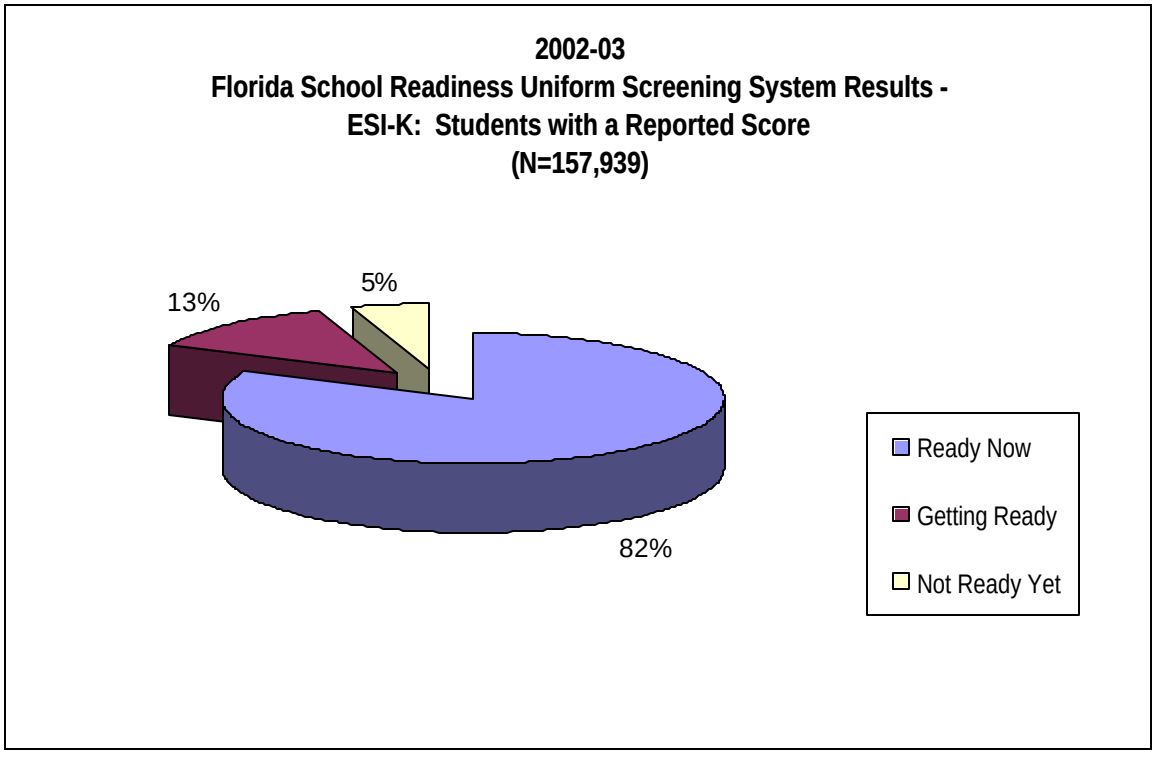


Screening forms were submitted for the ESI-K for 175,668 kindergarten students. The results revealed that:

- **74 percent of these students were considered "Ready Now."** This means that the development and abilities of these students were within the range of what is expected for children of this age.
- **12 percent of these students were considered to be "Getting Ready."** This means that there were other factors that influenced the student's performance on the day of screening. Some schools and districts may have elected to re-screen these students at a later date. (Re-screening results are not reported to the state.)
- **4 percent of these students were considered "Not Ready Yet."** This means that age appropriate development was not evidenced during the screening.
- **5 percent of these students were considered "Score Not Possible."** This means that they did not have results because scores could not be determined. For example, answer sheets were "double-gridded."
- **5 percent of these students were not screened on the *ESI-K*, "Non-Participants,"** because they began school after the 21st calendar day, or because the instrument was not appropriate due to the significant nature of the student's disability or because the student was a speaker of a language other than English.

In summary, while screening forms were submitted for 175,668 students, accurate results were attained for 90% of this population or 157,939 students. This information will help districts monitor student participation in screening.

2002-03 FLORIDA SRUSS RESULTS - ESI-K: STUDENTS WITH REPORTED SCORES
The graphic below depicts state summary information for the administration of the Early Screening Inventory-Kindergarten (ESI-K) for the 157,939 students with valid scores.



For the 157,939 kindergarten students with valid scores reported on the ESI-K, the results revealed that:

- **82 percent of these students were considered "Ready Now."** This means that the development and abilities of these students were within the range of what is expected for children of this age.
- **13 percent of these students were considered to be "Getting Ready."** This means that there were other factors that influenced the student's performance on the day of screening. Some schools and districts may have elected to re-screen these students at a later date. (Re-screening results are not reported to the state.)
- **5 percent of these students were considered "Not Ready Yet."** This means that age appropriate development was not evidenced during the screening.

The information described above and contained in the *State Report of Districts Results* (see pages 4 and 16) is important for establishing baseline information of student performance. It should also be noted that these results are similar to those obtained in prior years through more informal assessments by kindergarten teachers. More significant results will be obtained through further analysis regarding the students considered to be *Getting Ready* or *Not Ready Yet.*

DISTRICT REPORT OF SCHOOL RESULTS

School districts will receive copies of the *District Report of School Results* directly from the Department of Education's contractor. These data will be used in the development of local School Improvement Plans.

Copies of the *District Report of School Results* for the Executive Director of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and contact persons for the local school readiness coalitions are enclosed. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness will be using this data, along with demographic information from multiple sources, to produce more detailed reports in the future.

We have learned much from our first year of implementation and will be implementing a number of changes for the 2003-04 administration decrease scanning and recording problems so that we have accurate results for more of our kindergarten students.

If you have additional questions regarding the School Readiness Uniform Screening System, please contact Cathy Bishop at 850/488-1106 or via email at cathy.bishop@fldoe.org, or Wanda Akisanya at 850/488-8198 or via email at wanda.akisanya@fldoe.org.

We appreciate your support and collaboration and your ongoing commitment to young children and their families.

Enclosures: *Florida School Readiness Uniform Screening System: State Report of District Results, Fall 2002* – All
District Report of School Results – Executive Director, Florida Partnership for School Readiness and Contact Persons, Local Readiness Coalitions

cc: District Coordinators of Assessment
Contact Persons, Local School Readiness Coalitions
Katherine Kamiya, Executive Director, Florida Partnership for School Readiness