

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

MARK KAPLAN

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

SUSAN STORY

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education



MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Frances Haithcock, Chancellor of Public Schools

DATE: August 9, 2010

SUBJECT: **FAIR Updates for the 2010-2011 School Year**

In an effort to keep you abreast of all Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) refinements for the 2010-2011 school year, this memorandum includes a brief overview of the FAIR adjustments occurring over the course of the summer and a draft deployment schedule for the 2010-11 school year. The Department's main goal is to provide a stable FAIR system for all users statewide for the 2010-2011 school year, and therefore the refinements have been kept to those that the Department believes are essential to assist teachers with making instructional decisions to meet the needs of all students. All adjustments are based on feedback from FAIR users across the state, data from 2009-2010 FAIR administration, changes to FCAT Item Specifications and federal reporting requirements.

FAIR Programming and Assessment Administration Update

- A new contractor has been hired to program updates and to refine the computer code. While we cannot guarantee that the programming will be 100 percent error free, we anticipate a smoother implementation of the assessment.
- Assessment Period Windows will remain the same for 2010-11:
 - AP 1 Instructional Day 6 - 40
 - AP 2 Instructional Day 66 - 100
 - AP 3 Instructional Day 136 -170

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK

CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- A staggered assessment schedule will be implemented for AP 1. During AP 1, we will test 10,000 students per day for the first 5 days. For assessment day 6-10, we will assess 20,000 students per day. On assessment days 11-15, we will assess 30,000 students per day. On assessment day 16-40, we will assess 60,000 students per day.

Instructional days 6-10

- a) All 74 School Improvement Grant (SIG) Schools and year round schools- August 30-September 3

Instructional days 11-40

- a) Odd/Even district assessment calendar

Odd Numbered Districts

Week of September 7: Tuesday, Thursday
Week of September 13: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Week of September 20: Tuesday, Thursday
Week of September 27: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Week of October 4: Tuesday, Thursday
Week of October 11: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Week of October 18: Tuesday

Even Numbered Districts

Week of September 7: Wednesday, Friday
Week of September 13: Tuesday, Thursday
Week of September 20: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Week of September 27: Tuesday, Thursday
Week of October 4: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Week of October 11: Tuesday, Thursday
Week of October 18: Monday

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM is when peak usage is noted in FAIR. If logistically possible within the daily schedule, assess outside of this peak usage time.

** Through further testing of the FAIR application during summer 2010, it has been determined that there are errors which occasionally occur when using caching servers with FAIR. Due to these issues, we are recommending that districts discontinue the use of caching servers with FAIR.

**Please ensure that schools that are participating in the assessment test have all hardware prior to the test administration window. An automatic test can be run on each computer by clicking on the link <https://flassessments.fcrr.org/check.html>.

**It is recommended that the FAIR test be administered to Level 1, 2 and 3 students.

FAIR Refinements for Grades K-2

- Items have been adjusted on the first grade Word Reading task to include 10 items per Assessment Period (AP). This adjustment will ensure that a student's probability would maintain or increase if the student read all words correctly at each AP. This required a reprint of the first grade Student Score Booklet, Task Card Booklet, and the Probability of Reading Success (PRS) Chart.
- The Target Passage Expectation Guidance Document has been revised. During field studies, reading accuracy and comprehension data from a large representative sample of Florida students were collected to initially establish benchmarks (or target stories). After completion of 2009-2010 FAIR administration, statewide data was used to refine these benchmarks.

FAIR Refinements for Grades 3-12

- The number of passages at grades 3-12 will increase from approximately 60 to 71 passages, which will lead to a decreased likeliness of repetition of passages for students as they progress from grade to grade.
- Lexiles will be refined based on a recent linking study conducted this past winter.
- FCAT Success Probability (FSP) calculations for students without matched FCAT scores will rely solely on the Reading Comprehension (RC) screen rather than the school's FCAT mean score.
- An adaptive stop rule will be added for grades 3-5 students so that they will not receive passages that are too difficult. This will decrease student frustration at this level.
- The first passage provided to third grade students will be a less difficult passage than currently provided and additional below level passages will also be included.
- Changes will be made to items and reporting categories to match the new FCAT Item Specifications. The new reporting categories are: Vocabulary, Reading Application, Literary Analysis (fiction/nonfiction), and Informational Text/Research Process.

Rostering

- Initial rostering will occur during a new FTE Survey 8 – solely for PMRN rostering.
- PMRN registration began May 10th and is available at www.fcrr.org/pmrn.
- PMRN will be available August 23 and FAIR will be available on or around August 30th for Assessment Period (AP) 1.
- FLKRS and K-2 FAIR may be delivered by paper/pencil prior to this date for year round schools or schools with an Instructional Day 6 prior to the start of AP 1.

We held six workshops to provide professional development on the implementation of FAIR and how to use the data to inform instruction. During the first month of school, and before and after each assessment period, Just Read, Florida! will schedule weekly webinars to provide professional development on these same topics.

Please be reminded that FAIR usage is optional. You have a choice to use tools that provide the data and analysis that you need to provide teachers the data necessary to drive enhanced

Memorandum to District School Superintendents

August 9, 2010

Page 4

instruction. Your charge is to provide teachers with an assessment that works well, assists teachers in planning instruction, and is aligned to our state assessment.

Please contact Ron Lauver at (850) 245-9325, if you have any questions on the technology issues and Stuart Greenberg (850) 245-0503, for issues related to implications for instruction.