

To: District PMRN Assessment
Information Systems
Instructional Technology
Reading Contacts

Date: October 3, 2009

On Monday, there will be changes in how the data collection and reporting is handled by the K-2 Electronic Scoring Tool (K-2 EST), 3-12 Web-based Assessment Module (3-12 WAM), and the Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network (PMRN).

Reports will not be available on the PMRN until the day after the student completes a task.

The PMRN was designed to report scores in real-time. This means that as items and tasks were completed on the K-2 EST and 3-12 WAM, the data would be written directly to the PMRN. With twice as many students than expected taking the assessments, this was causing contention on the database servers. As a result, some scores were not written to the database in the time expected. The local machine (student's computer) was waiting for a successful save message and when it did not arrive, an error was displayed and/or the student was "kicked off."

In order to improve the "User's" experience (reduce student frustration), the scores will now be stored before being written to the PMRN database for the generation of reports. As the scores are stored, the signal will be sent to the local machine quicker so that the student can continue with the task.

We have made a tradeoff between the speed of the assessments and the speed of the reports being generated. To start, there will be an overnight turnaround. As the process is tuned, we will shorten the duration so that it is on the same night, same afternoon, or within the hour.

Reading Contacts, you will also note that your coaches have not received the reminders for the Professional Development Log for Reading/Literacy Coaches (Coach's Log) for the past few weeks. The PMRN is currently not sending the E-mails. This is a decision that I made to help reduce frustration by your coaches. The Just Read, Florida! Office has not stated that the bi-weekly logs do not need to be completed. They should be completed, but with the introduction of the new assessment, I feel that they do not need any more anxiety. I have also turned off the Principal Coach's Log Report and Missing Score Reminder.

The deadline for the reporting of the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) is still in place and the assessing of Kindergarten students should be the priority. Differentiated Accountability (DA) still has its deadlines. All other assessments should follow the Assessment Calendar posted for each school on the PMRN.

Related the DA reporting, the only location that the scores for the clusters on the Reading Comprehension is the Student Score Detail Report.

Please know that on Monday, the instruction files for the 3-12 WAM will no longer be pulled from the Tampa site. They will be embedded as originally programmed. Putting them on a separate server on a separate network helped with the bandwidth issues, but it may have had negative consequences on the performance of the application.

You may note a larger utilization of bandwidth when assessments first begin on Monday. Again, I recommend that you start slow in a few labs and, as the files are cached, add additional computers.

As always, I appreciate your continued support.