

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

---

F. PHILIP HANDY, *Chairman*

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Vice Chairman*

### *Members*

LINDA J. EADS, Ed.D.

CHARLES PATRICK GARCÍA

JULIA L. JOHNSON

WILLIAM L. PROCTOR, Ph.D.

LINDA K. TAYLOR

JIM HORNE  
Commissioner of Education



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** Jim Warford and Jeanine Blomberg

**DATE:** June 4, 2004

**SUBJECT:** 2004-05 and 2005-06 Statewide Assessment Schedules

The spring 2003-04 test administrations have been successfully completed. Thank you and those throughout your district and schools who were instrumental in implementing the statewide assessment program this year. The improvement of students' scores on FCAT is attributable to the excellent job our teachers do in helping students master the challenging content of the *Sunshine State Standards*. In recent weeks, we have been collecting and reviewing feedback and suggestions from teachers and test administrators about ways to improve the administration of FCAT and the other assessment programs. This feedback is extremely valuable to us for improving the assessment program, and we encourage your additional feedback.

You will recall that in 2002 the Department announced its plans to implement a similar schedule year after year from that point forward. The dates presented below continue that commitment. These dates have been chosen to occur as late in the year as possible and still permit test results to be provided before the end of the school year. Because some districts have moved their first day of school into early August and therefore end in early May, finding dates that work well for everyone continues to be a challenge.

The dates for the 2004-05 test administrations are shown below and the dates for 2005-06 are shown in parentheses. Detailed assessment schedules will be available and distributed to you as soon as possible.

- School Readiness Screening – The uniform screening of Kindergarten students should be conducted within 30 school days of the first day of school.
- Fall FCAT Reading and Mathematics Retakes – September 27-October 1, 2004 or October 4-8, 2004. Districts will be asked to identify one of the two weeks available for their fall FCAT retake administration. (2005-06 dates: September 26-30, 2005 or October 3-7, 2005)

JEANINE BLOMBERG  
*Deputy Chief of Staff*

District School Superintendents

June 4, 2004

Page 2

- FCAT Writing and FCAT Writing+ Field Test – On February 8, 2005, the FCAT writing essay will be given and on February 9, 2005, the FCAT Writing+ field test will be administered. All schools and all students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 will participate in the field test. The first operational administration of the Writing+ assessment will be in 2006. (2005-06 dates: February 7, 2006 and February 8, 2006).
- FCAT Reading, Mathematics, and Science SSS Tests – February 28-March 11, 2005: All testing and make-up administrations must be administered during this window. Daily session schedules, which specify the day for each session by grade level, will be provided as soon as possible. (2005-06 dates: February 27-March 10, 2006)
- FCAT Norm-Referenced Tests (NRT) – The NRTs are given during the same period as the FCAT SSS tests. Districts may choose to administer FCAT NRTs on any day(s) during the testing period on which there are no *Sunshine State Standards* sessions scheduled by the Department. In an effort to provide flexibility, districts may test the Reading NRT and the Mathematics NRT on different days and may administer the NRT at all elementary schools on one day, all middle schools on another, and all high schools on yet a third day if they wish.
- Summer FCAT Reading and Mathematics Retakes – June 20-24, 2005 (2005-06 dates: June 19-23, 2006)

Currently the plan is that the High School Competency Test (HSCT) will be made available to eligible students through the June/July 2005 administration.

Both state law (s.1008.22 (2) F.S.) and the federal *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001 require Florida's participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). As in previous years, the NAEP assessment will be administered only in a sample of schools throughout the state. If schools in your district are selected for participation, you will be notified of the schedule by the Florida NAEP Coordinator. The NAEP assessments are scheduled to occur in January and February, but will not be scheduled during FCAT Writing.

Detailed plans about the 2004-05 assessment programs will be furnished at the annual District Coordinators of Assessment training meeting scheduled for September 8-9, 2004, in Orlando. More information regarding the annual training meeting will be provided to you as soon as it becomes available.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the testing schedules, please contact Victoria Ash, Supervisor of K-12 Assessment Administration, Office of Assessment and School Performance. If your concerns are related specifically to the NAEP program, please contact Michele Sonnenfeld, the Florida NAEP coordinator. You may contact them via e-mail at: [Victoria.Ash@fldoe.org](mailto:Victoria.Ash@fldoe.org) or [Michele.Sonnenfeld@fldoe.org](mailto:Michele.Sonnenfeld@fldoe.org), respectively, or by telephone at (850) 245-0513 or SunCom 205-0513.

JW/co:va

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction  
Coordinators of Assessment  
Coordinators of Accountability