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July 31, 2006

MEMORANDUM #06-12

TO: District Coordinators of Assessment
Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction

FROM: Shan Goff, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning
Cornelia S. Orr, Administrator, Office of Assessment and School Performance

SUBJECT: 2006-07 Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS): An Update

Consistent with the Department of Education's (DOE) strategic imperative to improve student rates of learning, we are pleased to provide you with an update on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS): (Early Childhood Observation System™ (ECHOS™) and the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills™ (DIBELS™)). The purpose of this update is to provide clarification about the screening of non-public school students, additional information about administering DIBELS in Spanish, and additional resources for implementing FLKRS in 2006-07, some attached and some sent separately.

Screening of Non-Public School Students

[Section 1002.69\(1\), Florida Statutes](#), specifies that the DOE shall require each public school to administer a kindergarten readiness screening to all kindergarten students in the school district within the first 30 school days of each school year. Additionally, each parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program in the previous school year must voluntarily submit their child for the FLKRS, regardless of whether the child is admitted to kindergarten in a public or a non-public school.

As indicated during last month's FLKRS regional trainings, school districts are responsible for:

- providing training on the ECHOS portion of the FLKRS for those certified or degreed kindergarten teachers in non-public schools who will be teaching children who previously attended VPK
- coordinating the dates, times, locations, and the number of participants who may attend the training sessions, and for providing ECHOS kits and a timetable for the return of the Student Response Folders to non-public school teachers attending these trainings

- administering the DIBELS measures to non-public school children who attended VPK (a schedule and list of school district sites for the administration of the DIBELS portion of FLKRS should be provided at the district's FLKRS training to non-public schools).

Administration of IDEL (Indicadores Dinámicos del Exito en la Lectura) to Selected Kindergarten Students

To provide additional information on children whose native language is Spanish and who may be identified as English Language Learners (ELL), both the IDEL and DIBELS probes are to be administered:

- to "first-time" kindergarten students who answer "yes" to two out of three questions on the Home Language Survey
- by trained staff who are fluent in Spanish.

We are working with the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR) to identify DIBELS trained staff who are also fluent in Spanish and to provide training to district DIBELS facilitators during their already scheduled August training meetings.

Resources

The following resources are attached to assist you with implementing FLKRS for 2006-07:

- Office of Early Learning, Technical Assistance Paper #06-06, *Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener: Frequently Asked Questions* (Attachment 1)
- Flow chart with recommended procedures for training non-public school teachers and screening of non-public kindergarten students who participated in VPK (Attachment 2)
- Sample district letter to non-public schools announcing dates, times, and locations of district FLKRS trainings (Attachment 3)
- DOE letter sent to all registered non-public schools offering kindergarten (Attachment 4)
- Flow chart on procedures for selection of kindergarten students for the IDEL (Attachment 5)
- Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS) brochure (PDF attached)

The following items will be sent under separate cover:

- CD-Rom of IDEL training (sending August 2006)
- CD-Rom with all presentations from the June District Regional Trainings (sending to district identified FLKRS coordinators)

If you would like to have copies of the FLKRS brochure mailed directly to you, please complete the attached ordering form and return to Debbie Hatcher at debbie.hatcher@fldoe.org or fax to (850) 245-5105.

If you have any questions about the screening program or need additional assistance, please contact Dr. Martha Haynes at (850) 245-9560 or via email at martha.haynes@fldoe.org.

SG/CO/mh

Attachments – 7

cc: District VPK Contacts

District Prekindergarten ESE Contacts
District ESOL Coordinators