May 20, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education


Since the inception of the EDUCATEAlabama (EA) formative assessment online process in 2009, many local education agency (LEA) instructional leaders and practitioners have expressed the need for an alternate process for formatively assessing school psychologists and school psychometrists. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is suspending the use of the EA online process for all school psychologists and school psychometrists for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

In response, the ALSDE, Special Education Services (SES) Section, convened a Formative Assessment for School Psychologists and School Psychometrists Task Force comprised of LEA, university, and professional association practitioners in May 2013 to:

- Evaluate and guide professional development for school psychologists and school psychometrists in Alabama.
- Make recommendations to the ALSDE for development and implementation of a formative assessment process specific to the school psychology and school psychometry profession.

The task force recommendations will be used to guide the future development and implementation of a formative assessment process for this professional group. The ALSDE will be responsible for the development and implementation of the new process for school psychologists and school psychometrists.

Until this formative assessment process is available, LEAs may use a locally determined formative assessment tool of their choice to assist school psychologists and school psychometrists in self-assessing their professional learning needs. The
LEAs will be expected to provide professional development opportunities based on these practitioners’ identified needs. However, if the LEAs so choose, they may continue to use the EA process for school psychologists and school psychometrists until a new process is ready for use.

The ALSDE will keep LEAs informed of task force progress and recommendations for the formative assessment process for school psychologists and school psychometrists.

If you have questions and/or need clarification, please contact Ms. Clare Ward at (334) 242-8114 or cward@alsde.edu or Ms. Ayanna Long at (334) 242-8114 or along@alsde.edu.

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