February 26, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents

FROM: Sherrill W. Parris
Deputy State Superintendent of Education

RE: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Assessments for 2014-2015

This memorandum is to inform you that the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will continue to support DIBELS as a formative/benchmark assessment choice for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. During the 2014-2015 school year, local education agencies (LEAs) will have the option to choose between DIBELS 6th Edition, DIBELS Next, or another formative/benchmark assessment. During the 2014-2015 school year, the ALSDE will provide K-2 benchmark materials for DIBELS 6th Edition or DIBELS Next. The ALSDE will also pay for DIBELS data entry for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3.

When LEAs choose to begin using DIBELS Next, the LEA is responsible for providing professional development to ensure that teachers administer DIBELS Next with fidelity to testing guidelines. For teachers who have used DIBELS 6th Edition, the training for DIBELS Next takes about three hours and can be done face to face or online. The training is offered by literacy vendors across the state.

The testing windows for the 2014-2015 school year are as follows:

- Fall Assessment Days 1-20
- Winter Assessment Days 80-100
- Spring Assessment Days 150-170

Later this week an e-mail will be sent to your LEA with three options:

1. My LEA will use DIBELS Next during the 2014-2015 school year.
3. My LEA has chosen to use an assessment other than DIBELS.

Upon receipt of the e-mail, if you choose Option 1 or 2 you will be asked to approve the number of testing materials that you will need. Please discuss these options with your leadership team so you will be ready to return your information to the ALSDE.

If you have any questions, you may contact Carol Belcher or Vickie Chappelle at 334-353-1389 or via e-mail (cbelcher@alsde.edu, vchappelle@alsde.edu) or your regional team leader. We appreciate that you share our vision for the children of Alabama and are committed to making them successful readers.

SWP:JSS:TH

cc: Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) Regional Staff
ARI Central Office Contacts
Applicable ARI Principals
FY14-2042