March 5, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents

FROM: Sherrill W. Parriot
Deputy State Superintendent of Education

RE: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Assessments for 2013-2014

This memorandum is to inform you that the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will continue to support DIBELS as a possible formative/benchmark assessment choice for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. During the 2013-2014 school year, local education agencies (LEAs) will have the option to choose between DIBELS 6th Edition, DIBELS Next, or another formative/benchmark assessment. Last year, LEAs could use either edition of DIBELS but the ALSDE only provided materials for DIBELS 6th Edition. During the 2013-2014 school year, the ALSDE will provide K-2 materials for DIBELS 6th Edition or DIBELS Next. The ALSDE will also pay for DIBELS data entry for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3.

If 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 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 2013-2014 school year are as follows:

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

Later this spring an e-mail will be sent to you with three options.

1. My LEA will use DIBELS Next during the 2013-2014 school year.
3. My LEA has chosen to use as 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
Dr. Thomas R. Bice
Dr. Julie P. Hannah
Ms. Judith S. Stone

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