March 17, 2015

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 2015-2016

This memorandum is to inform you that the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will continue to support DIBELS as a screening/formative/benchmark assessment choice for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. During the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 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 Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) contact with three options:

1. My LEA will use DIBELS Next during the 2015-2016 school year.
3. My LEA has chosen to use an assessment other than DIBELS.

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 (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:AD

cc: ARI Regional Staff Dr. Thomas R. Bice Ms. Judith S. Stone
ARI Central Office Contacts Dr. Julie P. Hannah
FY15-2049