MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Barbara J. Cooper, Ph.D.  
Deputy State Superintendent of Education  
Chief Academic Officer

RE: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) 
Assessments for 2017-2018

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 2017-2018 school year, local education agencies (LEAs) will continue to have the option to choose between DIBELS 6th Edition, DIBELS Next, or another formative/benchmark assessment. During the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Assessment</td>
<td>1-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Assessment</td>
<td>80-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Assessment</td>
<td>150-170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2017-2018 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 that you will be ready to return your information to the ALSDE before the deadline.

If you have any questions, you may contact Karen Rutledge-Bell, krbell@alsde.edu, at 334-353-1389. We appreciate that you share our vision for the children of Alabama and are committed to ensuring they become readers.

BJC:KWP:TH

cc: Mr. Michael Sentance  Mr. Andy Craig  Mrs. Karen W. Porter
    Mrs. Shanthia Washington  ARI Central Office Contacts  ARI Regional Staff

FY17-2063