March 1, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Ed Richardson Interim Superintendent of Education

RE: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Assessments for 2018-2019

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 2018-2019 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 for monitoring the reading progress of students.

Districts choosing to use DIBELS as an assessment have the option of printing the booklets and teacher guides in-house with no outsourcing to a third party or may contact a company licensed to print and sell materials. An e-mail will be sent to your LEA Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) contact with specific directions regarding print materials and to determine your choice of assessment options.

The ALSDE will pay for DIBELS data entry/data management for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 at no cost to the district, but will not provide K-2 benchmark materials for DIBELS 6th Edition or DIBELS Next.

When LEAs choose to begin using DIBELS Next, it will be the responsibility of the LEA to provide professional development to ensure that administration is done with fidelity and according to testing guidelines. Training for your LEA is provided by literacy vendors across the state.

The testing windows for the 2018-2019 school year are as follows:

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

If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell, ARI DIBELS Specialist, by e-mail at krbell@alsde.edu or by telephone at 334-353-1389. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring that all Alabama schoolchildren become proficient grade-level readers.

ER:KP:TH

cc: ARI Central Office Contacts Dr. Barbara J. Cooper Mr. Andy Craig
    Mrs. Shanthia Washington Mrs. Karen W. Porter Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell

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