April 17, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Assessments for 2019-2020

This memorandum is to inform you that the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will continue to support Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) as a screening, formative, and benchmark assessment choice for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. During the 2019-2020 school year, local education agencies (LEAs) will continue to have the option to choose among DIBELS 6th Edition, DIBELS Next (now Acadience Reading K-5), and the newly available DIBELS 8th Edition, or another formative benchmark assessment for monitoring the reading progress of students.

The ALSDE will continue to pay for the University of Oregon DIBELS Data management system for students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 at no cost to the district. Funds will not be available to reimburse LEAs for printing any materials for DIBELS 6th Edition, DIBELS Next, DIBELS 8th Edition, in-house, or purchased from a vendor.

Districts choosing to use DIBELS as an assessment have the option of printing the student booklets, teacher administration guides, scoring guides in-house with no outsourcing to a third party, or they may contact a company licensed to print and sell DIBELS materials. An email will be sent to each Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI) central office contact with directions regarding printing of materials.

When an LEA chooses to begin using DIBELS Next or DIBELS 8th Edition, it is the responsibility of the district to provide professional development ensuring that administration is done with fidelity and according to assessment guidelines. The testing windows for the 2019-2020 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 call the ARI office at 334-694-4632 or email Mrs. Karen Porter, ARI Coordinator, at kporter@alsde.edu or Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell, ARI DIBELS Specialist, at krbell@alsde.edu. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring that all Alabama schoolchildren become proficient grade-level readers.

EGM: KWP:TH

cc: ARI Central Office Contacts
    Dr. Daniel Boyd
    Mr. Andy Craig
    Mrs. Karen W. Porter
    Mrs. Karen Rutledge-Bell

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