

MEMORANDUM

December 17, 2008

TO: All Principals

FROM: Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent
District /School Operations

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify some misconceptions in the field which pertain to assessments. While the District strongly encourages instructional staff to utilize both formative and summative assessments for instructional purposes, progress monitoring or as a measure for their School Improvement Plans, the only standardized assessments that teachers can be required to administer are those listed on the testing calendar (posted at <http://oada.dadeschools.net/TestingCalendar/TestingCalendar.asp>).

Additionally, we would like to clarify which schools must administer the Interim Assessment (IA) during this school year. The IA tests in reading, mathematics and science were designed to provide teachers with valid and reliable benchmark-level data to monitor students' progress toward mastery of Florida's Sunshine State Standards. In 2008-2009, the District reduced the production of the IA test booklets due to budget constraints, producing fall and winter materials only for schools in the state-sanctioned Differentiated Accountability program, and spring materials only for the Intervene and Correct II schools. Per the testing calendar, these schools are required to administer the assessments to comply with state-mandated reporting procedures. Other schools were given the opportunity to purchase the assessments from site funds for individual use.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Maria de Armas, Assistant Superintendent, K-12 Core Curriculum, at 305-995-4202 or Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research and Data Analysis, at 305-995-2943.

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cc: Dr. Maria de Armas
Ms. Diana T. Urbizu
Regional Superintendents
Ms. Gisela Feild