

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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September 11, 2009

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: District School Superintendents**

**FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock**

**SUBJECT: FLORIDA ASSESSMENTS FOR INSTRUCTION IN READING (FAIR) UPDATE**

As we finish our second week of school, I am pleased to report that the new Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) are up and running. There is a high level of excitement statewide about assessing students and using the resulting data to inform instruction. I would like to thank the districts for their support during this implementation period and for their feedback as we make adjustments.

You are to be commended for the diligence you have exhibited in ensuring FAIR readiness at the local level. As with any new computer-based system, there have been technological challenges with the initial statewide roll-out. Due to a very high volume of students assessed this week, some schools have experienced technical difficulties. We are working at the state level to ensure that there is sufficient bandwidth available to you as you assess your students. The Progress Monitoring and Reporting Network (PMRN) staff has been busy making adjustments and tuning the applications as the network traffic has increased with the statewide release. We have identified both short-term and long-term solutions and will have these solutions in place as soon as possible next week.

Thank you for your patience as work to resolve these bandwidth issues and for your support of using assessment data to drive high quality instruction in your schools.

FH/hre

**DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK**  
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS