

Accountability and Systemwide Performance
Dr. Kriner Cash, Chief

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECEIVE THE *DISTRICT ASSESSMENT REVIEW AND
ACTION PLAN***

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In January 2005, the School Board approved Item B-3, proffered by Ana Rivas Logan, directing the Superintendent to review current testing processes and develop a plan to condense the District's assessment program. In response to this Board action, staff from the offices of Curriculum and Instruction (C&I), Professional Development (PD), and Accountability and Systemwide Performance (ASP) collaborated to review and develop an action plan that addresses the alignment and consolidation of testing programs. The plan reflects recommendations from teachers, administrators, and UTD leadership. It has as its primary (ongoing) aim the reduction of excessive testing activity in our schools while at the same time educating stakeholders about the important educational purposes of a sound assessment program. The plan also describes new assessments that support educational reforms that are under way in the District.

With input from field educators, District staff collaborated to design a plan that consolidates and strengthens the District's assessment program. The plan focuses on reducing the testing demands on teachers while taking care to ensure that better progress monitoring tools are in place for teachers and students. As a result of the review process and action steps taken to date, C&I and ASP staff have created a District Assessment Calendar which projects the revised timeline for District, state, and national assessments. These proposed changes will increase instruction time by reducing teacher-led assessments and scoring. For reading and language arts assessments, the plan substantially reduces the amount of time needed to test individual students, the number of students assessed, and the number of times selected assessments are administered.

The essential elements of the District's action plan for a streamlined assessment program include: (1) reviewing current legislation and mandates that require testing programs; (2) evaluating the District's current testing program with special emphases on assessment programs scored by teachers to ensure non-redundancy; (3) surveying schools regarding school-level tests currently administered in our schools; (4) providing support to schools to streamline school-level tests that are not part of District requirements; (5) using student/teacher support teams to relieve teachers in targeted schools of the administration and scoring of selected screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring assessments; (6) continuing to review and evaluate the impact of future mandated assessment programs; and, (7) developing a comprehensive proposal for a district-wide interim assessment program.

Copies of the Assessment Review and Action Plan will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the *District Assessment Review and Action Plan*.