

2008-2009 Alternate Assessment Update

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2008-2009?

- The Florida Alternate Assessment will take place from January 20, 2009 – February 18, 2009.
- A Field Test for the Science portion will be conducted with 204 students in Miami-Dade from October 15 – 24, 2008. Principals will receive lists of all teachers and students that will be involved along with procedures.
- The Florida Alternate Assessment will assess students working on the Sunshine State Standards Access Points for Reading and Math (Grades 3-10), Writing (Grades 4, 8, and 10) and Science (Grades 5, 8 and 11). The Access Points can be found at flstandards.org. All students on modified curriculum MUST be instructed using the Access Points.
- Each item on the assessment will be matched to an Access Point, so if teachers are not teaching the Access Points, the students will not do well on the test! Make sure that teachers are covering the access points on the grade level that the students are enrolled in. That is the grade level that will be tested.
- Practice materials will be made available to all schools with students who will be taking the Florida Alternate Assessment. These materials will be distributed after the field test.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Special Education students that meet the FCAT exemption criteria, as noted on their IEP, must be assessed using the Florida Alternate Assessment. No other instruments may be used.
- Each school's Program Specialist or SPED chairperson needs to ensure that information for students taking the alternate assessment is updated immediately on the PF18 screen in ISIS for incoming 3rd graders and before Survey 2 (October 13-17) for all others.
- Teachers with students taking the alternate assessment must attend training offered by the district. Training dates are listed below.
- The Program Specialist or SPED chairperson should disseminate information on the new alternate assessment to SPED teachers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T?

- Failure to test students on the Florida Alternate Assessment will impact the school's AYP and may contribute to our district being cited on the State Performance Plan indicators.
- For school year 2009-2010 Florida Alternate Assessment scores will count toward school grades in addition to AYP.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

- Administrators, Program Specialists, and SPED Teachers.

WHAT ABOUT TRAINING?

For teachers who have **never** been trained:

Thursday, October 2, 2008 for field test teachers ONLY
Tuesday, November 4, 2008 for operational test

For teachers who were trained last year, the district will be providing an update. A weekly briefing will be sent out with this information.

CONTACT

Jill Brookner, Alternate Assessment Coordinator
305-995-7580
jbrookner@dadeschools.net