

**TO:** Principals, Assistant Principals, Teachers

**FROM:** Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer  
School Operations



**SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT'S 2014-2015 TESTING CALENDAR**

Based on the results of an analysis of the District's testing program, in which state required/endorsed tests were reviewed based on their merits, duplication, and value as an instrument to inform instruction, students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools will take 24 fewer tests this school year. Working within state and federal requirements and existing resources, the changes to the testing calendar will result in up to 260 minutes of additional instructional time, depending on a student's grade level, in accordance with the table below:

<b>Grade Levels</b>	<b>Estimated Additional Instructional Time</b>
Grades 3, 4, 6	150 minutes
Grades 5, 8	260 minutes
Grade 7	240 minutes
Grades 9 – 11	75 minutes
End of Course (EOCs)	90 minutes

Highlights of the changes to the testing calendar include the following:

- In addition to District baseline assessments, which were discontinued earlier this school year, separate Fall and Winter administrations of the Interim Assessments have been cancelled.
- One Mid-Year Assessment (MYA) will be administered.
  - English Language Arts and Mathematics MYAs will be administered in December 2014.
  - Science and Social Sciences MYAs will be administered beginning in January 2015.
- FAIR-FS in grades K-8 has been cancelled for the second and third administration periods (AP2 and AP3).
- i-Ready, a diagnostic assessment that is already in use, will be administered to fulfill progress monitoring requirements in grades 3-8.
- Grades 9 – 12 FAIR-FS administration will remain as originally scheduled.

These changes are consistent with the action taken by the Board in its unanimous approval of Agenda Item H-2 – Assessment and Accountability, as proffered by Chair Perla Tabares Hantman, at its October 7, 2014 meeting. Parents and educators who have been concerned over the excessive number of tests and lost instructional time should find some relief in this action. We will continue to call on state and federal agencies to follow suit and conduct a thorough review of their current testing and accountability policies.

If you require additional information, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451, or Ms. Gisela Field, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis, at 305 995-2943.

VGB:cpi

cc: Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Superintendent's Senior Staff  
Ms. Gisela Feild