

**Race to the Top Frequently Asked Questions
December 20, 2011**

Great Teachers and Leaders

1. What is the timeframe for development of growth models for Algebra 1, Biology and Geometry end-of-course (EOC) assessments?

The growth model for the Algebra 1 EOC will be developed before the end of 2011-12 school year, and work will begin on Biology after it is first administered in the spring of 2012.

2. Will there be a value-added model for non-FCAT teachers?

We will provide information for non reading/ELA or math but using FCAT results in evaluation system.

3. Will there be a value-added model for FCAT retakes of 11-12 graders?

No.

4. Is there a window of time to have value-added scores available to districts?

They will be available in July 2012 for the 2011-12 school year.

5. What are the consequences for a district if they do not fully implement their revised teacher evaluation system in the 2011-12 school year?

As of December 13, 2011, more than half of the districts have met the September 30, 2011 goal, and we know of other districts that have meetings in December to finalize. If not complete by January 2, 2012, we will cut off the ability to draw-down funds until complete evidence is presented. If nothing approvable is submitted by June 30, 2012, a district will no longer be a participating LEA for grant purposes. We don't anticipate this.

Link to Memo: <http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6261/dps-2011-205.pdf>

6. Who is the targeted audience for the summer 2012 training on evaluating professional development? When will the dates be announced?

We do not have specific dates yet. We are in the process of securing a vendor through a competitive procurement. The training will target district professional development directors and other district staff that deliver professional development and evaluate it.

Standards & Assessments

1. Must we continue to administer FAIR quarterly if PARCC is also assessed quarterly?

PARCC is looking again at how often they are assessing students and the first two windows will be optional. Diagnostic is optional. Only the last two parts of PARCC will make up summative assessment for students. PARCC has scaled back to make sure the project is sustainable. FAIR will be revised to align with the Common Core State Standards. FAIR provides progress monitoring over time, which is a valuable tool for districts.

2. How can districts use items in the state item bank?

Assessment items are for districts' use as they see fit – interim, summative, pre/post, and midterm/final are all options. The state won't require that districts use it. There is a tiered level of access. There will be a test platform where districts create assessments and software feedback for test development. There are no plans as of right now to develop complete EOCs for all content areas as part of statewide item bank and test platform.

3. Will state-level item bank developers review district-developed tests?

Yes.

4. Regarding Gap courses, are there managing courses beyond those provided by the state?

There is a group of districts working on additional courses using LEA Race to the Top funds. We are supportive of this effort and will provide a secure location for posting and editing those items in the state item bank. It is possible there may be additional state funding available, but no firm answer.

5. For the hard-to-measure assessments for art, will all students have to take the same test whether they are in an arts magnet or regular school? When will the whole state be using an elementary arts test?

Districts can use the item bank to develop assessments as locally determined. The timeline for development of arts items is as follows. District grantees are writing item specifications that are due February 2012. They will be posted online for public review. The first assessment items are due summer 2012. During the 2012-13 school year educators will use item specifications to develop items. Field testing will occur in the 2013-14 school year.