

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock

DATE: February 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Algebra II EOC Exam Pilot Project

The Florida Department of Education would like to thank the six Florida school districts who have been preparing to participate in the American Diploma Project Algebra II Exam Pilot this spring. They have spent valuable time ensuring students enrolled in Algebra II are receiving instruction aligned to the course description. As a result of budget restrictions and the American Diploma Project contractor's agreement with the American Diploma Project Consortium not to provide student results before August, we will not participate in the project in spring 2009. We still plan to participate in the consortium of states for the American Diploma Project and will decide if we will participate in the testing in 2009-10 at a later date.

A special thanks to Brevard, Duval, Leon, Okaloosa, Sarasota and Seminole districts for their willingness to participate and for their flexibility and readiness to move education and assessment forward in our state. We apologize for any burden caused by work already completed toward this project and look forward to working again with these districts and the remaining districts throughout the state in the future to implement more end-of-course testing.

As we move forward with end-of-course exams, we will continue to explore the possibility of working with the American Diploma Project Algebra II Consortium states and their vendor to ensure results will be provided within a reasonable timeframe for final student grade calculations. This will allow Florida to provide a rigorous Algebra II end-of-course exam aligned to the Florida benchmarks in the State Board of Education adopted course description. In addition, we will have results that will enable comparisons to other states using the American Diploma Project exam.

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Our state is strongly committed to establishing end-of-course examinations as a viable component of our state's assessment program. We have developed Algebra I items that will be field tested in 2010 via computer-based testing to ensure turn-around time for results will be minimal. Subsequently, an end-of-course examination for Algebra I will be available during 2010-11. This will be an important step in moving toward more computer-based testing for our students. Having the implementation timeline start in 2010-11 will provide districts time to organize the technology requirements. Additionally, we hope to begin computer-based testing in other subjects by 2011-12.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Mary Jane Tappen at 850-245-0818 or via email at Mary.Tappen@fldoe.org.