

## **New Instructional Guides Aligned to B.E.S.T. Standards**

With the adoption of Florida’s Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, new resources have been and are being developed to support educators in understanding the new standards, instructional strategies to teach them, and how they may be assessed. First, in the standards themselves, you will find “benchmark clarifications” that provide helpful information for educators in understanding and implementing each standard.

In addition to the benchmark clarifications, the Just Read, Florida! Office (JRF) and the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support (BSIS) are developing implementation guides that will provide educators with comprehensive resources to design instruction to align with the new standards in an effective and meaningful way. The B.E.S.T. Instructional Support Guide for Mathematics (B1GM) is anticipated to be available for use in professional development in summer 2021, and the ELA Implementation Guide will be provided in the coming months.

Additional information on these guides is provided below.

### **Mathematics**

The Office of STEAM, within BSIS, has convened teacher expert work groups to develop the B1GM. This guide will be arranged by grade level for kindergarten through grade 8 and by course within the 9-12 grade band. Within the guide, each benchmark will be referred to as the Benchmark of Focus. The purpose of the guide is to support educators with their own understanding of the benchmarks and for an optimal experience when planning for instruction.

The following information will be included for each Benchmark of Focus:

- List of related benchmarks (horizontal alignment)
- Aligned Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards (MTRs)
- Vertical alignment
- Associated terms from the K-12 Glossary
- Purpose and instructional strategies
- Common misconceptions
- Example instructional task
- Example instructional items
- Available in fall 2022: sample assessment items aligned to new statewide assessments in mathematics that will be administered in spring 2023

The B1GM will be a living document with regular review cycles for edits, deletions, and additions to the content. All Florida educators will be encouraged to contribute to the content of the guide over the coming years as part of the review cycle. The first iteration of the guide is scheduled for release in spring 2021. All professional development will be based upon the contents of the instructional guide.

### **ELA**

The JRF Office will release the Implementation Guide, the result of collaborative efforts between JRF staff, teacher experts who participated in the standards writing process, and State Regional

Literacy Directors. The guide is developed using Universal Design for Learning principles and organized by strand. The sections contain content knowledge demands and explanations, background information on the intent of the benchmarks, implementation resources, and sample stacks (lessons which combine benchmarks and prevent the teaching of standards in isolation).

Similar to the B1GM, the guide will grow over the course of implementation to include student work samples, curriculum mapping resources, and suggested strategies for incorporating the texts on the booklists within the B.E.S.T. Standards.

Finally, as with mathematics, sample ELA test items aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards will be available in fall 2022, which will give educators, parents, and students an opportunity to interact with the item types and formats well in advance of the first test administration in spring 2023.

Given that all of these comprehensive resources will be available, the department will not publish test item specifications for ELA and Mathematics assessments aligned to the B.E.S.T. Standards, instead reserving them for their intended purpose in guiding item writers and reviewers.

Test item specifications will continue to be published for the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) until they are no longer administered, and for Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Science and Social Studies assessments until such a time that new standards and assessments are adopted for these subjects/courses.