



Statewide Email

DATE SENT: June 1, 2020

FROM: Carrie E. Henderson, Ph.D.

TO: FCS Chief Academic Officers
FCS Student Affairs Officers

Via: Carrie.Henderson@fldoe.org

SUBJECT: Reporting on Developmental Education Alternative Placement Methods

Pursuant to Florida Department of Education Emergency Order 2020-EO-02, through fall 2020, the provision in s. 1007.263(1), F.S., requires that admissions counseling “must use tests to measure achievement of college-level communication and computation competencies by students entering college credit programs” (emphasis added) is suspended. Colleges must still assess college-level communication and computation skills for non-exempt students and exempt students who opt to be assessed. Students may demonstrate readiness for college-level work in communication or computation via a test or an alternative method.

For Florida College System (FCS) institutions that opt to use alternative methods in addition to or in lieu of common placement tests, the division will create an additional section in the Developmental Education Accountability Report Template that is statutorily due October 31. The template will be disseminated no later than August 31, 2020. In addition to the regular requirements, the division anticipates adding a section to the template to capture institutional responses to COVID-19, specifically:

- The methods students used to demonstrate college readiness.
- Minimum standards for students to demonstrate college readiness.
- Acceptable documentation and the method in which the documentation was captured and maintained.
- How fairness was ensured for all students, including those with disabilities or who are learning English.
- Student appeal processes.
- How advisors/assessment coordinators were trained.
- Cost to students.
- How students were informed.

Institutions utilizing alternative methods will also be asked to report aggregate placement data, to the extent these data are available. There will be no requirement to report student-level placement data. The template will request institutions to indicate the approximate number of non-exempt students who were assessed and the percent assessed through: approved common placement tests only and not

through alternative method(s); one or more alternative method(s) only and not through an approved common placement test; or a combination of common placement tests and alternative methods.

>>**Response Requested!** Please complete this [brief survey](#) to let us know your institution's preliminary plans regarding alternative placement.<<

Additionally, all FCS institutions are invited to participate in a voluntary ad hoc data collection. With this emergency order, Florida is in a unique position to better understand the effect removing the common placement testing requirement has on student access/representation and on student success in postsecondary coursework. To that end, a student-level data collection would help Florida better understand the impact of the usage of alternative measures or multiple measures for developmental education placement, which could have institutional and statewide policy implications. Recognizing that not all institutions may be able to devote resources to student-level tracking and reporting, the division is making the collection of these data optional.

We will host a webinar on Thursday, June 4, 2020, from 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. EDT for institutions that wish to learn more about this opportunity. You may register for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1851153576987524363>. Institutions that opt to participate will be involved in decisions around variables collected and file formats required.

For questions, please feel free to contact me at Carrie.Henderson@fldoe.org. This information will also be discussed during the FCS Councils meeting next week.