



## FATA Meeting Minutes

5/17/17

- Legislative Session—HB 7069:
  - Back to paper--problems will be having to use a human reader which takes lots of manpower and with paper you don't have enough of the same forms of the test, space to house the paper tests and manpower to deliver and pick up the tests.
  - Elimination of Algebra 2—some liked having this score to be able to monitor their high students, however some didn't like having it because the performance was so low, also this isn't a graduation requirement.
  - SAT/ACT study—doesn't seem to be any opposition to this.
  - Schedule—last 3 weeks—this causes lots of issues, especially at elementary because of events that take place at the end of the year. This will also delay scores.
  - No VAM data for teacher evaluations—some felt this was a good measure for teachers and was fair/accurate.
  - The items that were passed were brought forward by the superintendents. If it is vetoed, we need to let it be known what we want. If it is vetoed it will go to special session and FATA should have a voice this time. If you are going to go to your superintendent with suggestions it needs to be about what is best for students. We also need to remind them that we need the data back in time to make key decisions about students and school improvement.
  
- Seal of Biliteracy/APPL testing:
  - No one had any information to share and the person who requested this topic was not present.
  
- Score Release:
  - It really puts us in a bad spot, everyone has to be on alert all the time because we don't have any idea when the release will be.
  - Most districts are closed on Friday so it would be extremely helpful if we could know if it is going to be on a Friday.
  - We would like to at least have a day's notice of the release so we can be prepared, even if it is the night before at 5 PM.

- Opt Out and Good Cause Promotion:
  - One district has it in their student progression plan that a team meeting must be held to look at evidence, it cannot be based solely on a test score, and the team makes the decision and the principal can make a final decision.
  
- Grade 3 Alternate Assessment Cut Scores:
  - The cut scores on these tests seem high. If districts could do a study on the test they use to come up with a reasonable threshold we could present it to the state.
  - SAT 10 is a test that has been around for a long time and the cut score of 45<sup>th</sup> percentile was set back on FCAT/NRT.
  - Some of the tests use only reading comprehension while others use a total reading score which includes comprehension, vocabulary and spelling.
  - There was discussion that if a district uses many of the alternate assessments that they can use all of them at the same time without the 30-day window and if the student passes one then they use that score. Some districts say they don't allow that, they can only take one test and then in 30 days they can take the same test or a different one.
  
- PERT Diagnostic Testing:
  - A district shared that some of their high schools find it useful and the high schools are responsible for purchasing it, not the district.
  - Another district offers it but found that the teachers don't actually use it.
  - It might be worthwhile to use it when they raise the cut score.
  
- Progress Monitoring Update:
  - Please share so we can all benefit from the information. Some districts were not comfortable responding but if you would share it would be appreciated.
  
- Testing Special Program Students:
  - There is a problem with Home Education students coming to test saying they are with FLVS and they actually aren't.
  - Some districts use online registration for Home Education and/or private schools.
  - Communication seems to be lacking.
    - Ensure that home education parents know they aren't FLVS but home education.
    - An FLVS contact told a district they couldn't contact DOE directly.
    - FLVS Tech Support took 3 ½ hours to get back with a district.
    - It would be helpful, especially for Pearson, to be able to let district testing coordinator have access in PAN to the FLVS students.
  - There have been situations where parents of FLVS FT students did not have their student do the practice test before coming to test. Parents argue with the testing

coordinator that they weren't notified they had to do this. FLVS sent a district the actual letter they use to notify the parent of this so the testing coordinators can show the parent.

- FAMIS:
  - FATA will have a session on June 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-5:00.
  - Contact Paula if you want to present a topic, the session will be open to all FAMIS participants.
  - Many breakout sessions in the past have had to do with assessment. You can check the agenda for this year's topics.
  
- State Assessment Meeting August 30 and 31:
  - August 29<sup>th</sup> will be the FATA meeting. We plan to hold it in the afternoon, perhaps about 1:00.
  - We would like ideas, perhaps a speaker, breakout sessions, etc.
  - We have some vendors who would like to be sponsors.
  
- FERA:
  - We would like to work with them to hold a session. Their meeting is in the fall, usually before Thanksgiving.
  - We would like to charge a registration fee in lieu of dues.
  
- State Debrief June 20 and 21:
  - Send Paula any topics you would like her to bring to the table.
  - Victoria Ash is retiring. FATA is planning to purchase a crystal vase with an inscription and flowers to present to her at the debrief. Any personal sentiments can be sent to Paula or Cyndy and they will take it to her.
  
- General Discussion:
  - If HB 7069 is passed, can we do away with VAM for the 2016-17 school year? It was stated that unions have already settled on what to use for the 16-17 school year. If you don't use it you have to use another measure and it seems too late to get a new plan approved.
  - HB 7069 says the state has to publish the assessments every 3 years. Comments were made that there should be some sample questions made available but if you put out the test then people will be fixated on those questions.

- ESSA—Florida will submit its plan next year. DOE will have another comment period. The commission of education link shows trends in other states. It seems they are looking at using SAT/ACT, however it was stated that those assessments don't align enough with the state standards. Our state aligns pretty well with ESSA already, but cultural piece has not been addressed, nor has closing the achievement gap. It also gives the states an Opt Out option.
- EOCs—districts handle the 30% differently. Comment was made that the state should not dictate how districts grade their students.
- ELA and testing up. It was stated that if your high students test up early then it will eventually hurt your school grade component because you are left with only your basic students testing at some point. Students should be tested for the grade they are being instructed in. It doesn't work this way for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they must take the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade test when in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.