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MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida School District Superintendents, Florida College System (FCS) Presidents, State and University System (SUS) Presidents, and Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF)

FROM: Jeff Sellers, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement

DATE: January 5, 2010

SUBJECT: FTCE/FELE Paper-based Test Administrations

During the 2009 Florida Legislative session, general revenue funds were not appropriated by the legislature for developing and administering postsecondary examinations. This has necessitated significant changes in examinee fees and other services related to the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE) and the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE).

Beginning January 1, 2010, as an additional measure to deal with these budgetary issues, the Department has suspended all paper-based testing (PBT) administrations for the FTCE/FELE program. Further, the Department will conduct computer-based testing (CBT) at Pearson VUE professional testing centers and will discontinue the use of most third-party college and university CBT sites. A small number of examinees has registered for the January or February 2010 PBT administration. These examinees will be accommodated with a full refund or seat at a CBT site of their choosing.

Testing trends show that a vast majority of examinees are selecting the CBT format over a traditional PBT administration. A number of factors contribute to the popularity of CBT, including the following benefits associated with a CBT environment:

- Access to FTCE/FELE testing is based on when a candidate is ready to test, not based on a preset testing schedule. Examinees will be able to test, at CBT centers strategically located throughout the state, seven days per week with morning, afternoon, and evening availabilities.

JEFF SELLERS
ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, AND MEASUREMENT

- Examinees receive the unofficial score reports at the test center upon completion of their examination.
- The continuous testing and reporting for certification provides schools and districts more flexibility in hiring and recruiting potential teachers.
- A centralized, coordinated, technology-based system permits timely responsiveness and information about any changes to testing program policies, procedures, or materials.

The Department is implementing this progressive move that will provide examinees with more testing options while simultaneously meeting the financial obligations of this project and maintaining a high level of service for our constituents. The following are exceptions to taking examinations via CBT only:

- The Department supports examinees who need accommodations by providing them with the option of PBT at any of the CBT centers.
- The Troops to Teachers program will continue to offer PBT examinations as needed.

The FTCE/FELE program Web site homepage, located at www.fl.nesinc.com, includes an "Important Announcements" section on the right-hand side. For convenience, direct links to the announcements related to registration by computer are listed below:

- CBT registration for 2010: http://www.fl.nesinc.com/FL_internetreg.asp
- CBT availability: http://www.fl.nesinc.com/FL_CBToverview.asp

Please contact the FTCE/FELE customer service center at (413) 256-2893 if you have questions regarding registration. Representatives are available to answer your questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (EST), Monday through Saturday. For additional information relating to the FTCE/FELE program, please contact Phil Canto, Bureau Chief of Postsecondary Assessment, at (850) 245-0513.

Thank you for your support as we continue to provide a high-quality testing program.

JS/ke/pc

CC: Deans and Directors of Colleges of Education
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