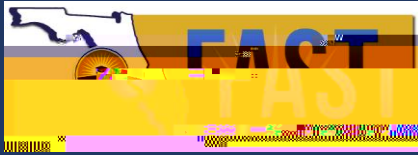

Assistant Superintendent



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning with the 2022–23 school year, Florida’s statewide, standardized assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics will be aligned with the *Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking* (B.E.S.T.). *Florida Assessment of Student Thinking* (FAST) will be administered three times per year in grades VPK through grade 10 English Language Arts and VPK through grade 8 Mathematics. These assessments replace the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and are intended to measure student progress in learning B.E.S.T. standards as well as evaluate final student mastery of on-grade level B.E.S.T. standards at the end of the school year.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in FAST assessments this school year. Please contact your student’s school for information on specific test dates, or visit your school’s website and locate the assessment calendar. Your student’s results from the first (PM1) and the second (PM2) FAST assessment will inform you and your student’s teacher on how well your student is learning on-grade level reading and math standards. Results from the third (PM3) FAST assessment is considered a summative assessment used for accountability purposes such as student promotion into the next grade level, high school graduation, and school grades. Your student’s test results will be available by logging into FOCUS and accessing the *Family Portal*. For more information on the *Family Portal*, including directions on how to access the portal, please contact your student’s school.

It is important to note that FAST assessments have not replaced

. The Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC assessments that measure student achievement of the B.E.S.T. standards as well as the Civics, Biology, and U.S. History EOC assessments will continue to be administered and students are required to participate in these assessments when enrolled in the corresponding course. In addition, the grades _____ will continue to be administered this school year. For information on these assessments, as well as assessments required for ELL students (_____) and the _____ (FSA A) please contact your student’s school or visit the Florida Statewide Assessments Portal at <https://flfast.org/index.html>.

All Florida students participate in the state’s assessment and accountability system. Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during these test administrations.

Sincerely,

Cheryl LaPorta Edwards

Cheryl LaPorta Edwards, Ed.S.

Assistant Superintendent for Learning

