

November 1, 1999

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Principals

FROM: Henry L. Johnson, Associate Superintendent  
Instructional and Accountability Services

Louis M. Fabrizio, Director  
Accountability Services

SUBJECT: 1999 - 2000 ABCs

We have good news to share regarding the current 1999-2000 accountability year and the ABCs. This will be a year of stability for the ABCs: the components of the ABCs model remain in place as they were in the 1998-99 accountability year. For most schools there will be no major changes or additions (*alternative and special schools are an exception, see below*). We encourage you to share this news with your faculty and staff.

For your information, we have enclosed an explanation of the 1999-2000 ABCs model and a fact sheet called ABCs At-a-Glance. You will note that all components described in the outline are in place as they were last year, and computations to determine the growth/gain and performance composites remain unchanged. (An explanation of computations is provided in "ABCs: The Comprehensive Model," available on the DPI Infoweb. *To access from the Infoweb homepage, select Index; then select Accountability Division, then Reporting section, then click on 1998-99 ABCs: The Comprehensive Model.*)

Please keep in mind that, like last year, there is one ABCs model for all schools. Schools are accountable for the courses/subjects offered, throughout their grade configurations. A school with grades 6 through 9, for example, is accountable for end-of-grade and end-of-course testing data. Test data for transfer students should be accurately attributed to the school where the course was taught. (Students who transfer into a high school after the first block should not have their records updated with data from another school until AFTER the second block testing is complete.)

It is important that you maintain accurate and complete historical data on all students. This is the time of year to conduct audits and update missing or erroneous

data. High school student records should be checked and updated throughout the year to reflect changes in courses of study. Principals should be mindful of the importance of keeping accurate data for graduating seniors (it is especially important to assign accurate course codes). While we understand that these data are not complete until after graduation, it is vital that seniors' records identify the appropriate courses of study, as these data are necessary to compute the College Prep/College Tech Prep component of the ABCs.

Alternative and special schools are included in the 1999-2000 ABCs under a special policy (HSA-C-013) recently adopted by the State Board of Education. (To access the policy from the DPI Infoweb homepage, click on *State Board/DPI*; scroll down and click on *SBE Policy Manual*; click on *Contents* at bottom of page; click on *HSA series*; click on *HSA-C*; scroll and click on *HSA-C-013*.) Alternative schools' school improvement plans for the current school year should identify the three local option ABCs accountability components for 1999-2000, which must be approved by their local school boards. Questions about these school improvement plans should be directed to the School Improvement Division at DPI (919-715-1905). A mailing to LEAs from the Division of Accountability Services in December will clarify the data collection process for Alternative schools.

Later this year, we will request information from all LEA superintendents regarding any schools in their district that may require special consideration under the ABCs. In 1998-99, these "special conditions" included K-2 feeder schools, high schools in their first year of operation, and schools where mandated end-of course tests were moved, among others.

We are providing the attached documents for use with your staff or others as you answer questions pertaining to the ABCs; you may copy and distribute as needed. As always, questions concerning the accountability program can be directed to your LEA testing/accountability coordinator, who in turn can request information and/or assistance from a Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC).

Good luck to your school as we proceed to the new millennium with the ABCs. We look forward to your continued cooperation and another successful accountability year.

HLJ:LMF:bb

Attachments: 1999-2000 ABCs Accountability Model  
ABCs Facts-At-A-Glance

c: Elsie Leak  
LEA Superintendents  
LEA Testing/Accountability Coordinators  
LEA SIMS Coordinators  
Compliance Commission for Accountability  
Regional Accountability Coordinators  
DHHS Administrators

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