

November 1, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Superintendents, Chief Officers of Charter Schools

FROM: Michael E. Ward

SUBJECT: Data Collection for the 1999-2000 ABCs

This will be a year of stability for the ABCs. For most schools, there will be no major changes or additions: the components of the ABCs model remain in place as they were in the 1998-99 accountability year, and determination of the growth/gain and performance composites remains unchanged. Schools are accountable for the courses/subjects offered throughout their grade configurations. Alternative and special schools will implement the provisions of the ABCs model for Alternative and Special schools, which were recently adopted by the State Board of Education (HSA-C-013).

As always, it is very important that our public schools ensure that student data for the ABCs of Public Education are complete and accurate. Please remind all schools in your district to include the entire testing history of each student enrolled during the current accountability year in their student information management system. High school principals should be reminded of the importance of assigning accurate course codes and maintaining complete data for graduating seniors; these course completion data identify the appropriate courses of study for diploma recipients and are used to compute the College Prep/College Tech Prep component of the ABCs.

At the time of this mailing to you, a separate memo is being sent to your principals from the Division of Accountability Services, detailing for them what I have outlined here. You will receive a copy of the principals' memo. In it, principals are reminded to audit, check, and update student records for the 1999-2000 year to reflect any changes that may have occurred. The agency has provided software so that designated staff in your schools can conduct audits periodically throughout the year. Data that are missing (e.g., data for students who have transferred into the school or school district) may need to be manually entered, and, as always, we will work individually with school districts who do not use SIMS.

Should you have concerns or questions regarding data collection for 1999-2000, please contact Gary Williamson in the Division of Accountability Services at 919-715-1219. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we head for the new millennium with the ABCs.

MW:GLW:bb

c: Regional Accountability Coordinators
LEA SIMS Coordinators
LEA Testing/Accountability Coordinators
DHSS Administrators