



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION :: Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION :: Michael E. Ward, *State Superintendent*

May 10, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: LEA Superintendents
LEA Test Coordinators
Charter School Directors

FROM: Robert H. Bellamy, Associate Superintendent/CIO
Accountability and Technology Services

Louis M. Fabrizio, Director
Division of Accountability Services

SUBJECT: Writing Assessment Reports for 2003-04

Pearson Educational Measurement, using imaging technology, is scoring the student essays from the North Carolina Writing Assessment at grades 4, 7, and 10 for the 2003-04 school year. Pearson, who previously scored the field tests and pilot tests, is using the SBE-adopted North Carolina Writing Assessment Scoring Model to generate holistic scores in content and the use of language conventions—the same process used to score the writing assessment field tests and the pilot tests. The results from the assessments will generate a raw scale score in both content and conventions. In addition, a total writing score and achievement level score will be assigned for each student. Student performance will be reported initially on electronic school rosters and later on individual student reports.

The NCDPI Testing staff has provided daily monitoring of the scoring of student essays from the March 2 test administrations to ensure that North Carolina standards were maintained at each grade. Unfortunately Pearson encountered some challenges along the way and experienced some personnel changes that have necessitated a slight delay in the generation of the writing assessment reports for this year. The revised reporting schedule for the writing assessments is as follows:

- Summary Reports (including school rosters with student scores) will be placed on the NCDPI secure web page on May 24, 2004.
- Individual Student Reports and Imaged Student Responses will be distributed to the LEAs on June 3, 2004.

∴ **DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES**

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Memo to: LEA Superintendents
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May 10, 2004

Page 2

The Summary Reports will provide electronic school rosters that will include individual student scores that can be used to determine student progress in writing at grades 4 and 7 to inform decisions for Statewide Student Accountability Standards in grades 5 and 8. This information will be provided on the NCDPI secure web site on May 24, 2004. Using an assigned password, LEA test coordinators will be able to access the information on the same day.

We regret any inconveniences this delay may cause you and your school personnel, as well as the parents and students. For additional information about the writing assessments, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

We appreciate your continued support of the North Carolina Writing Assessment Program at grades 4, 7, and 10.

LMF:MGB:pw

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c: Regional Accountability Coordinators
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