

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**JAMES F. NOTTER  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

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*Signatures on File.*

March 15, 2010

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Joanne W. Harrison, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Educational Programs & Student Support

VIA: James F. Notter  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: **2010-11 BAT TESTING OPTION**

Participation in the first Benchmark Assessment Test (BAT 1) is mandatory for Differentiated Accountability (DA) schools due to state baseline reporting requirements. During 2009-10 only DA schools were allowed to participate in BAT 1. However, many non-DA schools continue to express a desire to participate in BAT 1. Most commonly cited by school leaders is the value they find in standards-based diagnostic data, which allows staff to guide instructional decisions regarding all students.

Following the requests from schools and discussion with the Executive Leadership Team, a process has been developed for non-DA schools to choose to participate in BAT 1 as a component of the School Improvement Plan. However, participation would require agreement by both the school's principal and School Advisory Council. The attached form would be used as documentation of the agreement. In order for schools to include BAT 1 as part of their School Improvement Plan, and to ensure adequate time to print materials, this form will need to be returned to Student Assessment by May 28 of this school year. Note that any current non-DA school that enters DA status for next year will be required to participate in BAT testing. It is recommended that any school that may potentially exit DA status at the end of this school year also follow this process for BAT 1 participation in the event that they are non-DA next year. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment & School Performance at 754-321-4257.

JFN/JWH/KB/PWH:tje  
Attachment

cc: Executive Leadership Team  
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum  
Principals  
DAC

# 2010-11 BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT TEST (BAT) 1 PARTICIPATION FORM

In the 2010-11 school year those schools that are required to report to the Florida Department of Education as a part of Differentiated Accountability (DA), must participate in BAT 1.

If your school is not a DA school you may opt to participate in BAT 1 if the school's principal and School Advisory Council (SAC) recommend participation. The principal should bring a proposal to the SAC for consideration and approval. If the SAC approves administration of BAT 1, please complete and sign the form below and return it to Paul Houchens, Director, Student Assessment by May 28, 2010.

It is important for the school to make this decision during the Spring of 2010 for the purpose of school improvement planning, as well as for Student Assessment to determine the necessary test materials for administration. Schools that opt to participate must include BAT 1 in their School Improvement Plan.

Remember, that all schools will participate in the November administration of BAT.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that materials will be prepared and shipped to my school for BAT 1. This exam will take place from September 13-16, 2010.

By my signature below, I am verifying that our school will participate in BAT 1.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
SAC Chair Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please **FAX** the completed and signed form to  
**Student Assessment & School Performance** at **(754) 321-4290**  
no later than 2:00 p.m. on May 28, 2010.