

## FACTS ABOUT THE BAS ISSUE

- The Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) was first introduced as a pilot program in DoDEA schools during the 2011-2012 school year. It was imposed in all DoDEA schools in September 2013.
- To properly administer the BAS to a student takes can take as long as 30 to 45 minutes and requires an educator to be able to devote her/his complete attention to the student's reading in order to detect an errors, omissions or other issues.
- The BAS is administered twice each school year: near the beginning of the year and again near the end of the school year. For a typical K-3 class of 18 to 20 students, this can consume the equivalent of roughly 6 full school days throughout the school year.
- At the time the BAS was first introduced, FEA warned DoDEA management repeatedly about the large amount of classroom learning time the BAS would consume
- As part of the initial BAS pilot program, FEA insisted upon and DoDEA agreed to "provide any K-3 classroom teacher, K-3 special education teacher and K-3 reading specialist in the FEA bargaining unit who administers the BAS with substitute coverage for as many days as it takes to complete the administration of the BAS for the entire class."
- Since that initial implementation of the BAS, DoDEA educators have had the option of requesting a substitute to teach his/her classroom while administering the BAS.
- Eliminating the option to request a substitute teacher will require educators to do one or both of the following:
  - Give their students simple, less academically valuable activities that don't require supervision/assistance from an educator during the roughly 6 school days it will take to administer the BAS to a typical classroom twice each school year.
  - Or,
  - Attempt to teach and monitor the full classroom while simultaneously administering the BAS, making it impossible to give the educators full attention to the assessment and thereby making the results incomplete or useless.
- Neither of the above outcomes is good for students, nor does it represent a good use of the millions in taxpayer dollars that have been spent to purchase the BAS.

**DoDEA MUST BE TOLD TO PREVENT THIS NEGATIVE SITUATION FROM HAPPENING. DoDEA MUST CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUBSTITUTES AS NEEDED DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BAS.**