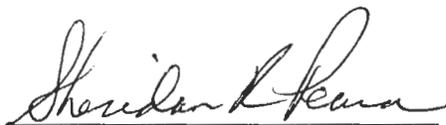


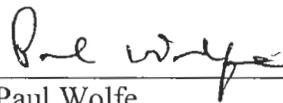
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
AND FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
English as a Second Language (ESL) Alternate Assessment
Continuation of Pilot Implementation

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) and the Federal Education Association (FEA) hereby agree to a continuation of the pilot implementation of ESL Alternate Assessments in accordance with the attached guidance. DoDDS and the FEA also agree to the following in the continuation of the pilot implementation:

1. New ESL educators administering the Alternate Assessment will receive training prior to conducting the assessment.
2. Management-directed training will normally be conducted during the duty day. If management-directed training cannot be accomplished during the duty day, the parties agree that management and the appropriate union representative will consult about the time, place, and length of the training at the appropriate organization level. Educators will be compensated for the time spent in management-directed training outside of the duty day in accordance with the established practice at the local, district or area level.
3. The FEA will be provided a summary of the feedback, including any problems identified, from the pilot implementation of the ESL Alternate Assessment. Guidance regarding implementation of the ESL Alternate Assessment will be shared with the FEA.
4. FEA will be given the opportunity to designate a representative on committees, task forces, work groups, etc. that involve bargaining unit members in accordance with currently established practice. It is understood that this representation does not constitute bargaining.
5. In attempting to resolve any disputes that arise, the parties agree to make every effort to resolve such disputes at the organizational level where they arise prior to forwarding the matter to the next level.



Sheridan R. Pearce
FEA President
January 12, 2006



Paul Wolfe
Human Resources Director, DoDEA
January 12, 2006

Priority Union Issues ESL Alternate Assessment

Topic: ESL Alternate Assessment

Labor Relations POC: Anne Muse

Content Expert: Karen Dyar, DoDEA ESL Coordinator

Date Decision Needed: January 20, 2006

Background:

Federal guidelines state that, "by SY05/06 each state must measure every child's progress in reading and math, and by SY07/08 must also have in place science assessments. Tests of English proficiency – to measure oral language, reading and writing skills in English – must be administered to all limited English proficient students beginning SY 02/03". Because it is often difficult to assess the content knowledge in reading and language arts of level 1 and level 2 students, until SY07/08 these students can have the *option of taking the reading/language arts assessment*, however, their English language proficiency must be assessed yearly. Students would also take the mathematics portion of the standardized assessment, with accommodations as appropriate."

Purposed Change:

Cancel the current ESL Alternate Assessment. Substitute administration of the English language proficiency assessment for current collection of student evidence. Level 1 and level 2 students would also take the mathematics portion of the Terra Nova with appropriate accommodations. Testing would coincide with the administration of the Terra Nova. The scores from the English language proficiency assessment and math portion of the Terra Nova would be reported to HQ as the ESL Alternate Assessment.

Rational for change:

- The evidence submitted for the ESL Alternate Assessment continues to show a disconnect ESL teachers have about standards, assessment, and instruction. Without the connection of content standards, language proficiency standards, instruction, and assessment the reliability and validity of the ESL Alternate Assessment are questionable.
- Currently DoDEA requires all ESL students be given an English language proficiency test in the spring of the school year to track their English language progress and help determine student needs for the upcoming school year. Administration of the assessment as part of the alternate assessment will reduce the number of students that must be tested in the spring.
- DoDEA is in the process of awarding a contract for the purchase of an updated English language proficiency assessment instrument that will provide a better measure of academic language and show progress across the language domains.
- CCSSO and a consortium of states are currently developing and field-testing standardized system-wide assessments for level 1 through 3 English language learners in the required core content areas. Both assessments are due to be published during SY 2007/2008.



Priority Union Issues ESL Alternate Assessment

Process:

Scope:

- SY 2005/2006 - Level 1 and, as appropriate, level 2 students (grades 3-11) at current pilot schools.
- SY 2006/2007 - All DoDEA schools for world-wide implementation

When

- Administration of the English language proficiency assessment and mathematics portion of the standardized system-wide assessment during the Terra Nova Assessment window.

Materials

- SY 2005/2006 - English language proficiency instruments currently in the schools (Language Assessment Scale (LAS) or IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT)).
- SY 2006/2007 – newly purchased English language proficiency instrument.
- Mathematics portion of Terra Nova.

Dates

- English language proficiency assessment data sent to HQ the first week of June
- Data from the mathematics portion of the Terra Nova collected from Assessment and Accountability Branch.
- New ESL assessment instrument sent to the schools spring or fall 2006.

Training

- No new training is needed this school year. ESL teachers are currently administering an English language proficiency assessment in the spring of each school year. For SY 2005/2006, the ESL teachers would administer the instrument that they are currently using.
- Training on the new ESL curriculum materials and English language proficiency assessment instrument purchased by DoDEA during fall of SY 2006/2007.

Time Frame:

- June 2006- ESL teachers submit the data from the English language proficiency assessment conducted spring 2006.
- June 2006- Headquarters gather data from the Assessment and Accountability Branch on the mathematics portion of the Terra Nova for level 1 and 2 student's English language learners.
- Fall 2006- Training on new English language proficiency instrument.

