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INVERNESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will be taking the Grade 8 English Language Arts (ELA) Writing Field Test on Monday, November 18th, 2019. The purpose of the ELA Writing Field Test is to assess newly-developed writing prompts, which may be used on future operational assessments. Student scores will not be reported for this field test; however, participation in the field test is an opportunity for your student to become familiar with the format of the writing component of the operational FSA ELA assessment that he or she will take in Spring 2020.

The ELA Writing Field Test is a computer-based test that is administered in one 120-minute session. In the session, students will read selected texts and write a response to a prompt. Your student will receive a planning sheet on which to plan his or her writing, but his or her writing response will be recorded via the online test delivery system.

You or your student can access a Writing practice test on the FSA Portal at <https://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/computer-based-materials/index.stml> to become familiar with the interface, item layout, and online tools he or she will encounter and use during testing.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing **or** during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if the devices are turned off or students do not use them**. If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—The ELA Writing Field Test includes a Testing Rules Acknowledgment printed on the student's planning sheet that reads: "I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated." Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement on their planning sheet.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states: "Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the writing prompt or passages after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting online, for example, on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, or Instagram." Please make sure your student understands that "discussing" test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**

If you have any questions related to this field test administration, you may contact Sarahy Ramallo at 352-726-1471 EXT. 5511. If you or your student would like to learn more about the FSA Writing assessment, writing rubrics and other general information are available on the FSA Portal at www.FSAssessments.org.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this field test administration. We are excited that our school was chosen to participate in this field test and that our students will contribute to helping our state develop valuable future assessments.

Sincerely,

Rob Hermann