

**From:** Koon, Sharon  
**Sent time:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:57:04 PM  
**To:** Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) <MaryLaura@excelined.org>; Patricia Levesque (patricia@afloridapromise.org) <patricia@afloridapromise.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment Reactor Panel Committee Meeting

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We also sent him this invitation from the Commissioner – so I don't really understand his comment. We knew it may be a problem with an email from Pearson – so we wrote this note as a heads-up. I think the problem is that spam blockers are sending Pearson's email to spam – at least that is the case with some district folks. That is why I sent it again this morning with my note.

Good Afternoon:

On September 29-30, 2011, the Florida Department of Education will conduct meetings to gather input from state school district superintendents, business, and organization leaders on the establishment of new achievement standards for the FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. Because of your leadership in Florida, you have been nominated to serve on this important committee, referred to as the Reactor Panel. This committee will review and provide feedback on recommendations of educators for the achievement level standards and the impact of these proposed standards on students.

The meeting will take place at the Hotel Duval in Tallahassee, Florida, from September 29–30, 2011. Additional information on this meeting will be sent to you this week, in the form of an invitation from Kris Ellington, my Deputy Commissioner of Accountability, Research, and Measurement, via an email from Jonathan Bramlett of Pearson. Pearson is the Department's assessment contractor and will handle all meeting logistics.

I hope you will make a commitment to join in this process. Setting high standards for student achievement is critical to the future of Florida.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Gerard Robinson

*Sharon*

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**From:** Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org) [mailto:MaryLaura@excelined.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:48 PM  
**To:** Koon, Sharon  
**Subject:** FW: Assessment Reactor Panel Committee Meeting

FYI from Trey Traviesa via Patricia's email.

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**From:** Patricia Levesque (patricia@afloridapromise.org)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:47 PM  
**To:** Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@Afloridapromise.org)  
**Subject:** FW: Assessment Reactor Panel Committee Meeting

Please let DOE know that their letter does not read like a real invitation to serve – maybe why they are not getting responses back.

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**From:** Trey Traviesa [mailto:trey@v-3partners.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2011 3:40 PM  
**To:** Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org)  
**Subject:** Re: Assessment Reactor Panel Committee Meeting

Patricia – can we communicate about this. The way I received it I took it as an invitation/FYI, not a commitment which I am happy to make. Just want to make sure I am doing what I commit to doing. This surprised me. Thanks.

ATT

## A. Trey Traviesa

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**From:** "Patricia Levesque ([patricia@excelined.org](mailto:patricia@excelined.org))" <[patricia@excelined.org](mailto:patricia@excelined.org)>  
**Date:** Fri, 16 Sep 2011 19:16:44 +0000  
**To:** "'[darmstro@broward.edu](mailto:darmstro@broward.edu)'" <[darmstro@broward.edu](mailto:darmstro@broward.edu)>, "'[barney.barnett@publix.com](mailto:barney.barnett@publix.com)'" <[barney.barnett@publix.com](mailto:barney.barnett@publix.com)>, "'[mberjamin@stepupforstudents.org](mailto:mberjamin@stepupforstudents.org)'" <[mberjamin@stepupforstudents.org](mailto:mberjamin@stepupforstudents.org)>, "'[julia@netcommworks.com](mailto:julia@netcommworks.com)'" <[julia@netcommworks.com](mailto:julia@netcommworks.com)>, "'[spareigis@fc100.org](mailto:spareigis@fc100.org)'" <[spareigis@fc100.org](mailto:spareigis@fc100.org)>, Trey Traviesa <[trey@v-3partners.com](mailto:trey@v-3partners.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Assessment Reactor Panel Committee Meeting

Last week you received an invitation to serve on a panel meeting in Tallahassee on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the panel is to set cut scores to determine achievement standards for the FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. I know each of you is extremely busy, but this is a critical exercise. If the end result is low cut scores, schools will be able to expect less and less of their students, and Florida will pay the high price of low achievement.

The cut score setting process typically has three phases. First, an educator panel reviews the test results from last year and makes recommendations on where to set levels 1-5 on each grade in reading and math. Then a "reactor" panel reacts to where the teachers set the levels and makes recommendations to go higher or lower, then the Department reviews both sets of recommendations and makes a final set of recommendations to the state board for vote.

The panel you have been asked to serve on – the reactor panel – is arguably the most important in the process. This panel is supposed to represent business leaders, employers that hire students from our public school system, and other objective individuals who don't have a conflict of interest in the recommendations because they don't work for a school district. Low cut scores will directly affect your talent pool. You have to set a high bar on cut scores.

And so I urge you to attend, or send someone in your place to attend, who will insist that Florida continues to raise the bar on student achievement.

Patricia

**From:** Jonathan Bramlett [<mailto:Jonathan.bramlett@pearson.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 08, 2011 12:07 PM  
**To:** Mary Laura Bragg ([MaryLaura@AFloridapromise.org](mailto:MaryLaura@AFloridapromise.org))  
**Subject:** Official Invitation to Attend the 2011 FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Reactor Panel Committee Meeting. Please respond by September 12, 2011.

The logo for Pearson, consisting of the word "PEARSON" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, centered within a solid orange rectangular background.

**TO:** Mary Laura Bragg

**FROM:** Kris Ellington, Deputy Commissioner

Florida Department of Education

RE: 2011 FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and Algebra1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment Reactor Panel Committee

On September 29-30, 2011, the Florida Department of Education will conduct meetings to gather input from state school district, business, and organization leaders on the establishment of achievement standards for the FCAT 2.0 Reading, Mathematics, and the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment. Because of your leadership in Florida, you have been nominated to serve on this important committee, referred to as the Reactor Panel. The meeting will take place at the Hotel Duval in Tallahassee, Florida, from September 29–30, 2011.

Prior to this meeting, committees of Florida educators will have made recommendations for these standards by considering the nature of the test questions, the difficulty of the items, and the potential impact on students. This committee will review and provide feedback on these educator recommendations for the achievement level standards and the impact of these proposed standards on students.

Registration for the meeting will occur on September 29 at 7:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m. Please plan to arrive on schedule, as the agenda will be full and each item on the agenda is critical to the success of the overall process. Breakfast will be available each day from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin promptly each day at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by 5:00 p.m. on September 29 and 2:00 p.m. on September 30. Lunch will be provided each day.

Travel, hotel, meals, Internet, and parking costs will be paid directly by Pearson or reimbursed after the meeting. Please register for this meeting using the online registration system Cvent at <http://www.cvent.com/d/dcqjfr>. The registration process enables you to reserve your hotel room for the meeting. It is important that you complete your registration via the online link **by September 12, 2011**.

If you have any questions about the meeting agenda or other details related to the meeting, please contact Dr. Sharon Koon at (850) 245-9566, or by email at [Sharon.Koon@fldoe.org](mailto:Sharon.Koon@fldoe.org). If you have questions regarding registration or travel, please contact our meeting planner, Jonathan Bramlett, at (800) 627-7990, ext. 214372, or by email at [jonathan.bramlett@pearson.com](mailto:jonathan.bramlett@pearson.com).

I hope you will make a commitment to join in this process. Setting high standards for student achievement is critical to the future of Florida.

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Having trouble with the link? Simply copy and paste the entire address listed below into your web browser:  
<http://www.cvent.com/d/QiYebTCnZEW7QewLADKqww/0n34/P1/1Q?>  
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