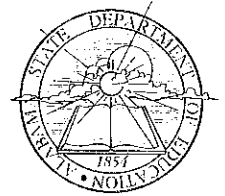




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
 State Superintendent of Education

June 20, 2014

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Ms. Trisha Powell Crain, Writer/Analyst
 Alabama School Connection
asc@alabamaschoolconnection.org

Dear Ms. Crain:

I am in receipt of your letter and appreciate your concern for the students of Hoover City Schools. Last week, I shared your concerns directly with Superintendent Andy Craig. Based on the information provided to me, I have gathered the following:

1. Mr. Ron Dodson contacted Dr. Gloria Turner, former Director of Student Assessment, in Fall 2012 requesting a review by the ALSDE of the fourth grade math scores on the ARMT assessment because of a significant drop in scores from the previous year.
2. Dr. Turner requested that the names of the students whose tests had the ten most egregious drops in score be submitted for departmental review.
3. Ms. Robin Litaker, Principal of Trace Crossings, identified those ten students and submitted their information to the ALSDE. The ALSDE then reviewed and individually hand-scored each answer document.
4. The ALSDE's analysis revealed that the answer sheets were scored accurately and that there were no abnormalities or discrepancies with the scoring process.
5. The results of the ALSDE's analysis revealed that none of the students completed Part 1 of the assessment, which caused a significant decrease in their test scores. These results were reported back to Hoover City Schools.

It was further reported to me that Hoover City Schools hired a math coach and placed an administrative walk-through team in order to assist the principal.

I trust that this addresses your inquiry regarding the steps taken to verify the integrity of the test administration in question. However, if you have specific information or documentation that shows otherwise, I urge you to submit it to my office for due consideration. Please rest assured that my duties as State Superintendent are not taken lightly. I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that every child in Alabama's public schools receives a quality education.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Bice
 State Superintendent of Education

TRB/MVH