MEMORANDUM

TO: West Virginia Principals
FROM: Michael J. Martirano, Ed. D
State Superintendent of Schools
DATE: January 25, 2017
SUBJECT: Participation in the ELPA 21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century)

As part of the Title III requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2417, each county is required to administer an annual assessment of English proficiency to all English Language Learner students. West Virginia is part of the ELPA 21 Consortium (English Language Proficiency Assessment for 21st Century), which has developed a new English Language Proficiency Assessment to measure English language learners’ mastery of the communication demands of state’s rigorous academic standards. The ELPA 21 will be administrated during the testing window of February 14th to March 24th, 2017.

I am requesting your assistance in ensuring that this assessment is administered under the best possible conditions at your school. Specifically, some areas that require your support include: providing appropriate testing sites; ensuring that students are excused from their regular schedules to complete the assessment; and communicating with faculty, staff, and parents regarding the upcoming assessment.

This ELP assessment will provide schools with information about EL students’ language proficiency and help ensure that our students make progress toward achievement in all of the content areas in the future. Your assistance in this process is both invaluable and greatly appreciated.

MJM:Mi:Em