Chapter 5

Connecting to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE)

Student records and test scores contain confidential, sensitive and personally identifying data and it is essential to protect that data. Pursuant to that end, all FASTER and ACT/SAT data exchanges between the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and education institutions accessing those applications will be routed through the FDOE Secured FTP (TIBCO SFTP) server.

Establishing Your FASTER Account:

Before establishing a TIBCO SFTP connection, you must have a FASTER account and password. If you do not have a FASTER account, please contact us at the FASTER Inbox and provide us with the name and contact information for the person with the administrative authority to establish the account. Note: Only Florida public postsecondary institutions and county school districts are eligible to have FASTER accounts.

Establishing Your TIBCO SFTP Connection:

To establish a TIBCO SFTP connection, please contact us at the FASTER Inbox. Identify your institution and provide the contact information for the person responsible for managing your server. Also, provide the IP address of the server you wish to use to send and receive your data. The IP address is needed in order to "white list" your server so our server will allow it to communicate with us.

If you upgrade or change your server, you will need to contact us again and provide the new IP address.

When you first establish your TIBCO connection, you will be assigned an SFTP User ID and password. Once this account is set up, we will provide documentation to the server contact you provided to us. The documentation will show how to change your password and provide the technical specifications for automatic and manual processes for sending and receiving your files.

FASTER and ACT/SAT Processing:

Currently, most FASTER and ACT/SAT applications participants submit their data files along with the IBM mainframe JCL needed to execute the applications. This will not

change in the near future. However, we have implemented a process which allows the participants to use processing parameters rather than JCL (see Chapter 6 – Process Parameter Record). This relieves the participants of the requirement to have staff with knowledge of IBM JCL. Also, in the future, this will allow FDOE to transition these applications to other platforms without the requirement of change by the participants.