

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP DROPOUT PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Passing the tenth grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is now a requirement for graduation. Students who do not pass the test on the first attempt have five additional opportunities to do so. Those students who took the FCAT in the Spring of 2001 and did not pass the test have already had one additional testing opportunity this past October and will have four additional opportunities to take and pass the test. The "cut score" for passing will increase in May of 2002, thus requiring these students to achieve at levels which may not be possible for some to reach. This may cause some students to leave school without a diploma. Therefore it is recommended that a committee be established to:

1. Provide support for legislative strategies that will hold tenth graders to the "cut scores" that were in effect when the test was first administered in March of 2001.
2. Seek recommendations to modify the A+ Plan to include multiple assessments for graduation.
3. Determine the feasibility of including FCAT test results on the report card in order to provide another mechanism for notifying parents of the status of their students with respect to this graduation requirement.
4. Develop best practices for the remediation of tenth grade students who failed the FCAT.
5. Develop dropout prevention strategies designed to provide additional services to potential dropouts utilizing outside agencies where appropriate.

This committee would provide an initial report for consideration by the School Board late in February, with a final report to be submitted in June 2002.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request the Superintendent to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to develop dropout prevention strategies.