

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REQUEST THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES TO THE FCAT THAT WILL NOT PENALIZE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

} Revised

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) began to be administered in 1998 to all public school students in grades three to eleven, evaluating progress in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. As of the 2011-12 school year, the testing program transitioned to the FCAT 2.0 and Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments, measuring student progress of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

As of July 2010, students are no longer mandated to take the FCAT graduation test three times before applying concordant SAT or ACT scores to meet the assessment requirement for a standardized high school diploma. Such concordant scores were revised as follows for the Class of 2011 and thereafter: 420 in SAT reading, 18 in ACT reading; 340 in SAT math, 15 in ACT math.

As an alternative to missing or failing the test, third grade students may present a portfolio of work showing their reading skills, and high school students may submit acceptable scores on the SAT or ACT. Though all students are required to participate in state assessment programs, students with disabilities may be exempt or tested with or without accommodations as decided by their IEP team. If waived from taking these tests, exceptional students may be evaluated through the Florida Alternate Assessment.

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Immediately after preliminary FCAT results for the 2011-12 school year showed that just 27 percent of fourth grade students earned a passing score of 4 or better (out of 6) on the writing test, the State Board of Education lowered the passing grade to 3.5. While this emergency rule seeks to increase the number of students with passing scores, the number is expected to still be significantly lower than the 2010-11 scores.

} Added

**Revised
Replacement
H-15**

This Board item requests that the State Board of Education, through the Superintendent, consider alternatives to the FCAT, as long as such do not penalize school districts.

} Revised

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to request the State Board of Education to explore alternatives to the FCAT that will not penalize school districts.

} Revised