

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CLARIFY
CURRENT POLICY AND ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES IN
RELATION TO THE FCAT

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.

In 2001, federal lawmakers passed the No Child Left Behind Act, making schools accountable for each student's progress and mandating states to create standardized exams in order to receive federal education funding. This added to the current controversy among educators and community members, who argue that these testing programs take funding from schools that need it most and impede students to be prepared for the real world.

This Board item requests that the Board of Education provide more details as to the current policy and acceptable alternatives in relation to the FCAT.

ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO: That the State Board of Education clarify current policy
and acceptable alternatives applicable to the FCAT.