

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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K-12: 2006-58

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Yecke, Ph.D.
Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools

Hanna Skandera
Deputy Commissioner,
Accountability, Research, and Measurement

DATE: April 24, 2006

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT OPTIONS FOR MEETING THE GRADE 10 FCAT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

School districts were notified via K-12 Memo #2005-56, dated May 18, 2005, regarding the continued opportunity for students to use concordant scores on alternative assessments (ACT and SAT) to meet the graduation requirement in lieu of earning a passing score on the Grade 10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

Section 1008.301, Florida Statutes (FCAT equivalency; concordance study), authorizes the State Board of Education to conduct a concordance study to determine if crosswalk scores can be determined to be equivalent to those required on the FCAT. In cases in which such equivalencies can be determined, the State Board is authorized to adopt those scores as meeting the graduation assessment requirement in lieu of the FCAT passing score.

Each time the score is changed, new equivalencies must be determined. This provision shall take effect for students who are eligible to graduate in the 2005-2006 school year.

To meet this requirement, the Department of Education conducted concordance studies to determine the score relationship between the FCAT and several national tests in 2003. This study involved matching scores for over 70,000 students who had taken both the FCAT and the SAT and over 47,000 students who had taken both the FCAT and the ACT. The correlations between the FCAT and the other tests were found to be positive and within the range of correlation between the SAT and the ACT. Although not perfectly aligned, the alignment documents for the SAT and ACT indicate that these tests cover a majority of the Sunshine State Standards content assessed by the FCAT. Therefore, based on the 2003 concordance study, the State Board of Education adopted the concordance scores as meeting the assessment requirement in lieu of the FCAT passing scores for high school graduation.

In March 2005, the College Board implemented several changes to the SAT. These changes require the Department to conduct another concordance study to determine if crosswalk scores can be determined to be equivalent to the new assessments. This study will require that a sufficient number of students have taken both the FCAT and the new assessment to support positive correlation.

Please note that the current concordance scores adopted by the State Board in May 2005, shown in the table below, are valid until the Department's subsequent study can be completed. Therefore, twelfth grade students scheduled to graduate in the 2005-2006 school year who have attained the ACT or SAT scores concordant with the FCAT passing scores shown below shall satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school diploma as provided by Florida law [sections 1003.43(5)(a) (General requirements for high school graduation.--) and 1003.429(6)(a) (Accelerated high school graduation options.--), Florida Statutes]. Also, note that pursuant to **section 1008.22(9)(b), Florida Statutes (Student assessment program for public schools), a student is required to take the Grade 10 FCAT a total of three times without earning a passing score in order to use the scores on an alternative assessment. This requirement shall not apply to a student who transfers into a Florida public school in the twelfth grade.**

Concordant Scores for 2005-2006			
Reading		Math	
FCAT	300	FCAT	300
SAT	410	SAT	370
ACT	15	ACT	15

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School districts are responsible for identifying students who are eligible to use concordant scores on the SAT or ACT to satisfy the assessment requirement for graduation. Districts must document that students using this option have met all other graduation requirements pursuant to Sections 1003.43 and 1003.429, Florida Statutes, and provide a process for documenting the concordant SAT and ACT scores. Students who meet all graduation requirements except passing the FCAT, and use the SAT or ACT to meet that requirement, must be reported in Survey 5 using one of the following Withdrawal Codes:

- WFT – Any student who graduated from school with a standard diploma and satisfied the graduation test requirement through an alternate assessment
- WFA – Any student who graduated from school with a standard diploma based on an 18-credit college preparatory graduation option and satisfied the graduation test requirement through an alternate assessment
- WFB – Any student who graduated from school with a standard diploma based on an 18-credit career preparatory graduation option and satisfied the graduation test requirement through an alternate assessment

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Samantha Love in K-12 Student Achievement at Samantha.Love@fldoe.org, or Victoria Ash in Assessment and School Performance at Victoria.Ash@fldoe.org.

CY:slva

cc: Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
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