

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Commissioner of Education



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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

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

Hanna Skandera
Deputy Commissioner
Accountability, Research, and Measurement

DATE: August 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test
Writing+ High School Graduation Requirement

In support of the Florida Department of Education's commitment to Set, Align, and Apply Academic Curricular and Testing Standards, we would like to inform districts of an additional graduation requirement for Florida students entering the first year of high school in the 2006-07 school year. All of these students and their parents must be informed of the requirements for receipt of a standard high school diploma.

Section 1008.22 (5) F.S., requires that students earn passing scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in reading, writing, and mathematics to qualify for a regular high school diploma, except as provided in Section 1003.43 (11)(b). A student enrolled in Grade 9 for the first time in the 2006-07 school year must achieve a passing score on FCAT Writing+ in addition to the current requirements of achieving passing FCAT scores in reading and mathematics.

It is anticipated that achievement levels, as well as the graduation passing score, will be presented at the State Board of Education January 2007 meeting. Achievement level

HANNA SKANDERA
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, AND MEASUREMENT

CHERIE PIERSON YECKE, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR
K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District School Superintendents

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scores will be reported for FCAT Writing+ beginning with the Spring 2007 administration. The graduation passing score will be applied to eligible students beginning with the Spring 2008 administration. This cohort of students, the graduating class of 2010, must then achieve the established passing score in order to receive a standard diploma. The first Writing+ Retake administration is planned for Fall 2008.

As you prepare to advise your students, please remember the following:

- 1) Students enrolled for the first time in Grade 9 in 2006-07, and thereafter, must meet the FCAT Writing+ graduation requirement in addition to all other established graduation requirements.
- 2) Students seeking adult high school diplomas must meet the same testing requirements as regular high school students.

If you have questions regarding the FCAT Writing+ graduation requirement, please contact Samantha Love at (850) 245-9947, Suncom 205-9947, or via email at Samantha.Love@fldoe.org, or Victoria Ash at (850) 245-0513, Suncom 205-0513, or via email at Victoria.Ash@fldoe.org.

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