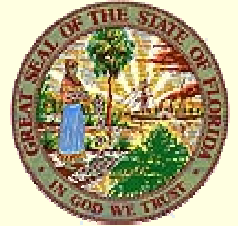


# Alternative Schools

State Board of Education  
November 16, 2004  
Tallahassee, FL



# Alternative Schools Summary



- In 2004, there were 258 schools that were previously identified as alternative schools.
  - 59 schools (in 21 districts) that were previously typed as an alternative school were large enough to receive a school grade in 2004.
  - 199 schools were too small to receive a school letter grade. These schools had fewer than 30 full year students with assessment results.

# Alternative Schools Summary



**Of the 59 schools large enough to receive a school grade:**

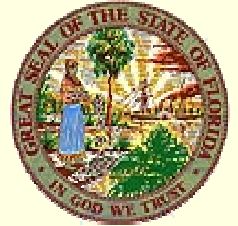
- 12 received a school grade because they had received a school grade in prior years.

A=3; B=0; C=5; D=1; F=3

- 47 schools received a “points only” calculation; an A-F school grade was not assigned. The “points only” calculations translated into A-F school grades as follows:

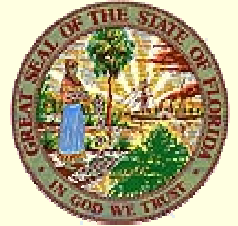
A=2; B=1; C=5; D=3; F=36

# Alternative School Students



- Percent of students in an alternative school:
- 30 districts- less than 1% of district enrollment
  - 18 districts - 1-2% of district enrollment
  - 9 districts - 2-3% of district enrollment
  - 6 districts - 3-4% of district enrollment
  - 4 districts - more than 4% of district enrollment

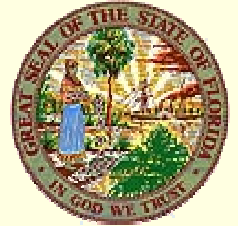
# Student Performance in Alternative Schools



Many of Florida's alternative high schools have a higher percentage of students at a higher achievement levels than regular public schools.

- Of the 30 lowest performing high schools in reading (13 percent or less proficient):
  - 15 are regular public high schools
  - 15 are alternative schools (59 are large enough to be graded)

# Student Performance in Alternative Schools

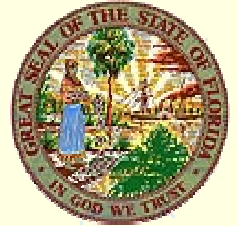


**The lowest performing students in our lowest performing high schools are more likely to make learning gains in a regular high school than an alternative high school setting.**

**In the 30 lowest performing high schools in 2004:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Regular High Schools, 19.6% of level 1 readers made gains
  - Alternative High Schools, 12.7% of level 1 readers made gains
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Regular High Schools, 40.3% of level 1 readers made gains
  - Alternative High Schools, 32.6% of level 1 readers made gains

# Student Performance in Alternative Schools



## In the 30 lowest performing high schools in 2004:

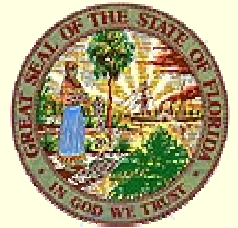
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Regular High Schools, 32.6% of students in math level 1 made gains
  - Alternative High Schools, 20.2% of students in math level 1 made gains
  
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Regular High Schools, 38.8% of students in math level 1 made gains
  - Alternative High Schools, 26.4% of students in math level 1 made gains

# Student Performance in Alternative Schools



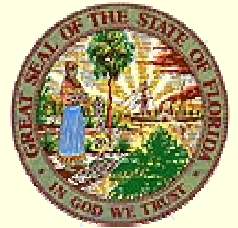
**Student performance in Florida's alternative high schools are not significantly different from the performance of the lowest performing high schools.**

# Student Performance in Alternative Schools



Reading AL 2004	Reg. School Number	Reg. School Percent	Alt. School Number	Alt. School Percent	Low School Number	Low School Percent
AL 1	80343	29.4	1745	67.1	3612	64.3
AL 2	86622	31.7	546	21.0	1445	25.7
AL 3	57257	21.0	201	7.7	408	7.3
AL 4	24903	9.1	66	2.5	100	1.8
AL 5	23915	8.8	41	1.6	56	1.0
Total	273040	100.0	2599	100.0	5621	100.0

# Student Performance in Alternative Schools



<b>MATH AL 2004</b>	<b>Reg. School Number</b>	<b>Reg. School Percent</b>	<b>Alt. School Number</b>	<b>Alt. School Percent</b>	<b>Low School Number</b>	<b>Low School Percent</b>
<b>AL 1</b>	31564	<b>11.6</b>	1134	<b>44.5</b>	2083	<b>37.4</b>
<b>AL 2</b>	57369	<b>21.1</b>	718	<b>28.1</b>	1742	<b>31.3</b>
<b>AL 3</b>	80191	<b>29.5</b>	435	<b>17.1</b>	1250	<b>22.4</b>
<b>AL 4</b>	73861	<b>27.1</b>	217	<b>8.5</b>	435	<b>7.8</b>
<b>AL 5</b>	29143	<b>10.7</b>	47	<b>1.8</b>	64	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	272128	<b>100.0</b>	2551	<b>100.0</b>	5574	<b>100.0</b>

# Student Performance in Alternative Schools

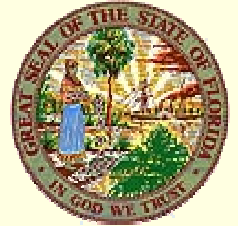


**There are several regular high schools that are performing below alternative schools.**

**Community Education Partnership SW, a school in Orange County that receive a “points only” calculation, outperformed 18 regular public high schools in percent of proficient readers including:**

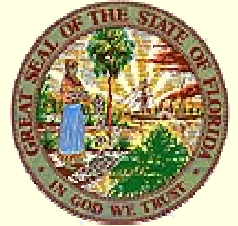
- Miami Edison Senior High School, Dade
- Booker T. Washington Senior High School, Dade
- Jones High School, Orange
- Glades Central High School, Palm Beach
- Jean Ribault High School, Duval
- William M. Raines High School, Duval
- Immokalee High School, Collier
- Miami Norland Senior High School, Dade
- Evans High School, Orange

# Accountability for Alternative School Students



- The Department of Education understands and appreciates alternative schools as viable outlets designed for children at risk of dropping out of school.
- Our goal is to work with districts to ensure the alternative school options are provided to students who are not achieving within traditional schools.
- We agree that we must continue to empower these students with the skills required for a productive adult life and gainful employment.

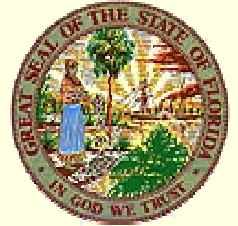
# Accountability for Alternative School Students



## **Policy Option 1: Do not grade alternative schools.**

- No statutory or rule definition of alternative school – self designate
- No eligibility criteria for student to enter alternative school
- Opportunity to ‘hide’ low performing students
- Serve our most academically needy students – should be providing the more successful services than the regular public school

# Accountability for Alternative School Students



## **Policy Option 2: Use FCAT level 2 as proficient in alternative schools.**

- Creating a different proficiency level for some standard curriculum students is lowering expectations for some standard curriculum students.
- Unintended outcome of having different standards at the alternative schools may result in a higher transfer rate to a school with lower standards.

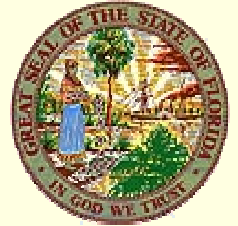
# Accountability for Alternative School Students



## **Policy Option 3: Allow alternative schools to be graded using learning gains only.**

- The Department should include all alternative school students in a standard curriculum in all parts of the accountability process.
- There are no eligibility criteria or processes in place to identify an alternative student as there are to be identified as having a disability or limited English proficiency.

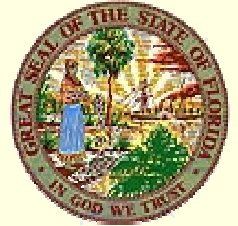
# Accountability for Alternative School Students



## **Policy Option 4: Allow alternative schools to accrue 'bonus points' toward their school grade.**

- The Department does not support awarding 'bonus points' to alternative schools for non student achievement components.
- The Legislature removed the non student achievement criteria and on December 18, 2001, the Governor and Cabinet unanimously voted to change the school grading system to remove these measures because they did not measure student achievement; this would be a step back in Florida's accountability system.

# Future Direction



- Students who may be dangerous to themselves or others and for whom behavioral modification may be more of a pressing goal than improving student achievement, there is not a current classification of programs other than juvenile justice programs designed to serve them exclusively.
- The Legislature and State Board of Education may wish to pursue a more definitive classification of such programs with corresponding eligibility criteria.
- Until then, we proceed by including as many students as possible into the accountability system by holding all schools, including alternative schools, accountable for student performance.
- This action will not only lead to improvement in alternative schools, as it has so dramatically for other public schools, but will ensure placement decisions are made for the primary purpose of improving student learning.

# School Types for School Grades



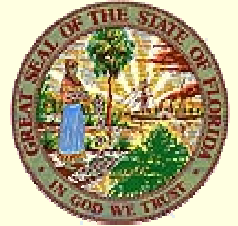
- November 18, 2003, the SBE revised Rule 6A-1.09981, Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability so all new schools will be graded in their first year and gave the Commissioner of Education authority to issue guidelines on school types so more schools will receive a school grade.

# School Types for School Grades



- Previously schools were self typed by districts
- Previously, schools that were typed alternative were allowed to participate in the school grading system and School Recognition Program if they wanted to

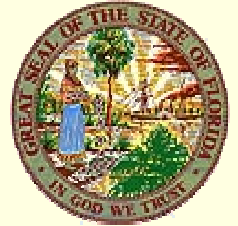
# Alternative School Students



If the school elects to “outsource” a student’s education by voluntarily sending the student to an alternative facility for part of the year, the home school is responsible for that student’s education whether it is provided at the home school or is outsourced to another school.

These students will be counted toward the school grade and adequate yearly progress designation for the regular public school.

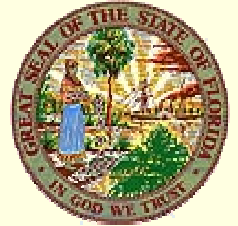
# Alternative School Students



**Rationale: The district will hold all schools to rigorous academic standards and requires the regular public school to evaluate their confidence that outsourcing a student's education will provide a better learning environment and better instruction to the student than the regular public school.**

**If outsourcing provides a better education and better outcome then the regular school should embrace the having the student's performance credited to their school.**

# Alternative School Students



**This only applies to alternative schools where the district has the option to place students. This policy is not applicable to Department of Juvenile Justice facilities where enrollment is not voluntary.**