

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action item
March 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, FAC., Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Florida school grading system has been in place since 1999. Schools are currently graded on student performance in reading, mathematics, and writing as well as the learning gains in reading, mathematics, and the lowest 25 percent in reading. At the November 18, 2003, State Board of Education meeting, the Board adopted amendments to the rule to include science as a seventh component, awarding one point for each percent proficient and increasing the writing requirement to 4.0 for the 2006-07 school grades. At this time, the Department is amending the rule to implement science as a seventh component and include the lowest 25 percent making learning gains in mathematics as the eighth component. The Department is also recommending removal of the provision for the writing requirement at 4.0 until writing becomes a graduation requirement and multiple choice items are included. In addition, retakes for the 11th and 12th grade are also recommended to be included in school grades for the purposes of awarding bonus points to schools that have more than half of the students passing the tenth grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test retake.

A discussion of the proposed school grade options, as well as the implementation impact, may be found in the November 15, 2005, State Board of Education packet under the Policy Issues for Concurrence: Raising the Bar: Options and Opportunities. The purpose of this rule amendment is to specifically implement current State Board of Education rule and raise the bar on school grading. The effect will be a higher bar for school accountability under the A+ Plan.

This rule amendment is consistent with the Department of Education's Strategic Imperative 3 Improve Student Learning and Independence.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09981, FAC., Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability.

Facilitators/Presenters: Hanna Skandera, Deputy Commissioner, Accountability, Research, and Measurement and Dr. Christy Hovanetz Lassila, Director, Evaluation and Reporting Office