

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Issue for Concurrence
December 12, 2006

SUBJECT: FCAT Writing+ Standards

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Discussion.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1008.22, F.S.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

FCAT Writing+—setting achievement standards. The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is currently administered in grades 3-11 in the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and science. Up to this point, FCAT Writing+ results have been reported using only the scale score (100-500) because the Achievement Level “cut points” have not yet been adopted. For FCAT Reading, FCAT Mathematics, and FCAT Science, overall results are reported as one of five Achievement Levels, which are ranges of scores determined by specific “cut points.” Determining these “cut points” is accomplished through an Achievement Level standard-setting process.

Section 1008.22 (3)(c)5., F.S., requires that students earn passing scores on the FCAT in reading, **writing**, and mathematics to qualify for a standard high school diploma, except as provided in Section 1003.428(8)(b), 1003.43 (11)(b), or 1008.22(9). Therefore, in addition to determining the Achievement Level standards, the FCAT Writing+ standard-setting process included the identification of a graduation passing score. A student enrolled in grade 9 for the first time in the 2006-07 school year will be required to achieve a passing score on FCAT Writing+ in addition to the current requirements of achieving passing FCAT scores in reading and mathematics. This cohort of students, the graduating class of 2010, must then achieve the established writing passing score in order to receive a standard diploma, and will have their first opportunity to pass in the spring of 2008.

This presentation will provide an overview and discussion of the standard-setting process and present the recommended achievement level and graduation standards for FCAT Writing+. The presentation will include review and is for discussion only. The Board will be asked to formally amend State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.09422, FAC, specifying score ranges for reporting achievement levels and the graduation passing score, at the January Board meeting.

Supporting Documentation Included: FCAT Writing+ Achievement Levels and Graduation Standard

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