

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Consent Item**  
December 11, 2007

**SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Rule 6A-1.09421, High School Competency Test Requirements**

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approval

**AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION**

Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The high school competency test required for high school graduation for students enrolled in 9<sup>th</sup> grade prior to 1999-2000, known as the High School Competency Test (HSCT), was removed from Florida Statutes in 2002. However, State Board Rule 6A-1.09421 requires the HSCT to be administered at least four times during each school year to provide students with adequate opportunity to be retested until passing scores are earned on each section.

The last group of students for whom the HSCT was the graduation requirement, the 2002 graduates, has had a total of 22 opportunities to pass. Approximately 600 students participated in two administrations in 2006, with 18% participating in both administrations. Twenty-four percent of students taking the Communications section of the HSCT passed during the June 2006 administration, while 17% of students taking the Mathematics section of the HSCT passed.

Students whose original graduation requirement was the HSCT also have access to a standard diploma through the Grade 10 FCAT. Students are only required to pass the portion of the Grade 10 FCAT, which corresponds to the portion failed on the HSCT. This group of students also may utilize SAT and ACT concordant scores according to the same policy as other Florida students.

The proposed rule amendments change the required administration schedule for the HSCT to an annual administration commensurate with the current number of HSCT test takers each year. In addition, changes to the rule make clear the current option for students to meet the graduation testing requirement with a passing score on the Grade 10 FCAT, or a score concordant to the FCAT passing score. Along with these changes, obsolete provisions are eliminated.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Proposed Rule 6A-1.09421, FAC, High School Competency Test Requirements.

**Presenter:** Dr. Cornelia S. Orr, Director, Office of Assessment and School Performance