

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Action Item

April 15, 2008

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

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### PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

### AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1008.34, Florida Statutes

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed amendment changes the adequate progress requirement of School Grades. Under current policy, schools that earn enough points to receive a performance grade of "C" or higher must demonstrate that at least 50 percent of their lowest performing students are making learning gains in reading and mathematics. If a school fails to meet that requirement, a school's grade is lowered one letter grade. Under the amendment, the current policy would remain. However, there will be an additional opportunity for schools that fail to meet the 50% threshold, yet demonstrate progress toward that benchmark, to avoid a letter grade reduction.

For schools that demonstrate at least 40% of their lowest performing students are making learning gains in reading and mathematics, their school's grade will not be lowered one letter grade if they show improvement in that percentage from the prior year. For schools where less than 40% of their lowest performing students are making learning gains, the school's grade will not be lowered one letter grade if they show at least a five percentage point improvement in that percentage from the prior year.

This proposed rule change is a recommendation of the FCAT External Advisory committee designed to provide schools improvement incentives that recognize progress toward accomplishing the performance goal of having at least 50% of their lowest performing students making learning gains in reading and mathematics. If approved, this proposed rule change will be in effect for the 2007-08 calculation of school grades.

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

**Facilitator:** Juan Copa, Chief, Bureau of Research and Evaluation, Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement