

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

January 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09421, High School Competency Test Requirements

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The test required for high school graduation prior to 1999-2000, known as the High School Competency Test (HSCT), was removed from Florida Statutes in 2002. However, there was no authority to discontinue administering the HSCT for students still eligible to take the HSCT, and State Board Rule 6A-1.09421, FAC, continued to require the HSCT to be administered to provide students who had yet to pass with adequate opportunity to be retested until passing scores were earned on each section (Communications and Mathematics). As such, the HSCT has continued to be administered through the summer of 2008. The last group of students for whom the HSCT was the graduation requirement, the 2002 graduates, has had over 22 opportunities to pass. Approximately 200 students participated in the June 2008 annual administration of the HSCT.

The 2008 Legislature amended Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, to allow the State Board of Education to discontinue old assessment programs once statistically equivalent passing scores on new assessments are approved in rule. Under this new authority, the proposed rule amendments discontinue the administration of the HSCT and establish passing scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test® (FCAT) that are comparable to those required on the HSCT. The comparable passing scores on the FCAT will allow adult students to meet their high school testing requirement using a test that is supported by the current statewide assessment program and offered several times per year. In addition to these changes, obsolete provisions related to the administration and content of the HSCT are eliminated.

To identify the comparable passing scores on the FCAT for this cohort of adult students, the Office of Assessment conducted a statistical analysis of a sample of approximately 92,000 students who participated in the administration of both the HSCT and the FCAT. This analysis, referred to as a concordance study, was used to identify passing scores on the FCAT that are comparable to those required on the HSCT, as identified in Table 1.

Reading		Mathematics	
FCAT	268	FCAT	278
HSCT	700	HSCT	700

The scores identified through the concordance study are incorporated into the rule amendments.

Beginning with the effective date of this rule, the HSCT will be discontinued and adult students will be required to register for retake administrations of the FCAT to fulfill the graduation testing requirement for a high school diploma.

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

Facilitator/Presenter: Jeff Sellers, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement