

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Action Item

January 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this rule amendment is to remove the passing score requirement on the grade 10 FCAT Writing+ to qualify for a standard high school diploma and to remove the current requirement for grade-level scale scores in order to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 1908. SB 1908 requires that the Commissioner discontinue administration of multiple-choice test items on the comprehensive assessment of writing until a new comprehensive assessment of writing is administered in 2012-2013. Until 2012-2013, the comprehensive assessment of writing will consist of a writing essay portion only, scored on a scale of 1 to 6.

With the removal of multiple-choice items, the grade-level scale scores are no longer applicable to the current assessment of writing and will not be applicable in the future when a new comprehensive assessment of writing is administered. The reason the grade-level scale scores and the passing score will not be applicable relates to the required design of the new assessment. SB 1908 outlined the specifications for the development of the new assessment of writing and these specifications will result in a completely new assessment that is designed differently than FCAT Writing+ (e.g., different item types). Therefore, the grade-level scale scores and grade 10 passing score that were established for FCAT Writing+ will not be aligned to the assessment of writing and cannot serve as an indication of student achievement in writing.

The historical grade-level scale scores and the grade 10 passing standard will remain in rule for student results reported during the 2007 and 2008 FCAT Writing+ administrations.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-1.09422, Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test Requirements

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