

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Consent Item
May 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Approval of Amendment to Rule 6A-1.099822, School Improvement Rating for Alternative Schools

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Sections 1008.34(3)(a)1., (c)(3), Florida Statutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under current law (Section 1008.34(3)(c)(3), Florida Statutes), alternative schools may choose to earn a school grade or a school improvement rating. If the alternative school chooses a school improvement rating, the law requires that students' FCAT scores be credited back to their "home school" for inclusion in the home school's grade.

Senate Bill 1908 from the 2008 legislative session changed the definition of "home school" to mean the school to which the student *would be assigned* if the student were not assigned to an alternative school. The amended statutory definition of "home school" in the school grading statute conflicts with the current (now obsolete) definition of "home school" in Rule 6A-1.099822, which defined "home school" as the school the student *was attending* when assigned to an alternative school.

The proposed change to Rule 6A-1.099822 will delete the rule's current definition of "home school" reported for students attending alternative schools since "home school" is clearly defined in statute and does not need to be re-defined in rule.

A further proposed change to the rule will provide additional authority for the use of minimum cell size requirements in calculating school improvement ratings for alternative schools.

While minimum cell size requirements are currently used in calculating school improvement ratings, additional rule-based authority to continue this practice is necessary for clarification. The insertion of language to address minimum cell size requirements is consistent with language existing in current statute, Section 1008.34(3)(a)1., Florida Statutes.

Supporting Documentation Included: Proposed Rule 6A-1.099822, School Improvement Rating for Alternative Schools

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