

FCAT Concordance Studies

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Presentation to the
State Board of Education
June 17, 2003

HB 915



- Authorizes the State Board to conduct a study of tests that may provide a valid alternative to the tenth grade FCAT for purposes of graduation.
- Authorizes the State Board to adopt scores on such tests if an equivalent score can be established.

PURPOSE OF POLICY



To provide an alternative to students who:

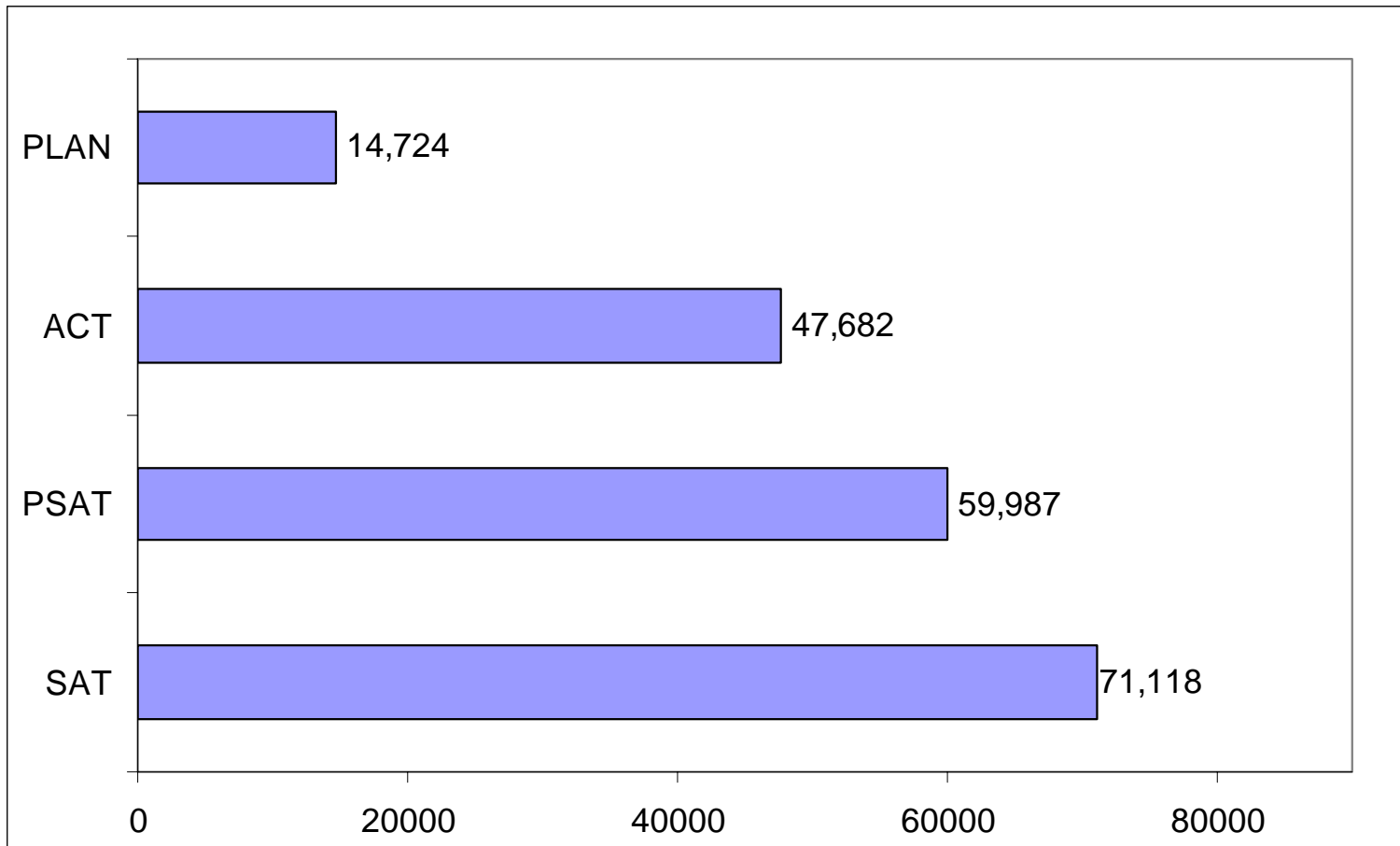
- Transfer in too late to take the FCAT
- Have not had sufficient time in Florida to master FCAT skills
- Can demonstrate readiness for college on an accepted national test

The Concordance Studies:



- Were based on Florida students who had taken both the FCAT and one of the four national tests.
- Followed the same methodology the Department of Education has previously used to set ACT and SAT cut scores for:
 - Admissions to state universities
 - College placement
 - Bright Futures awards
- Are consistent with the guidelines for the adoption of Grade 3 alternate assessments.

Number of Test Takers Used in the Concordance Studies



Concordant Scores

Reading

Math

FCAT 287

FCAT 295

SAT 370

SAT 350

ACT 14

ACT 15

Content and Skills Measured



- Alternative tests should measure similar content and skills to that of FCAT.
- Reports comparing Florida's Sunshine State Standards as measured by the SAT and ACT have been reviewed by Department curriculum and measurement staff.
- Conclusion: although not perfectly aligned, the reports show that these tests cover a majority of the Sunshine State Standards content assessed by FCAT.
- Additional analyses of the actual test items are planned.

PLAN and PSAT



- Provides:
 - Firsthand practice for the SAT or ACT
 - A review of progress in high school
 - Direction for educational and career planning
 - Feedback on strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for postsecondary education
- Supports meaningful high school course selection for the junior and senior years.
- Gives schools feedback for planning and allocating guidance resources.

PSAT AND PLAN



- Florida provides free access to these tests for all tenth graders for purposes of diagnosis on areas needing work and for placement into more rigorous courses.

PSAT AND PLAN



The State Board should not adopt substitute scores for these two tests because:

- Scores may impact tenth grade test taking behavior.
- FCAT will lose ability to measure rising student achievement statewide.

RECOMMENDATION



- Adopt cut scores for only the SAT and ACT and only if the Florida Legislature applies the option to current year high school graduates.
- If not adopted for 2003 seniors, begin rulemaking process to allow for full public hearings and input before action is taken.