

## ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXPAND GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Based on the recommendations of the 2003 Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Accommodations and Access for Students with Disabilities, Commissioner of Education Jim Horne is requesting legislation to expand graduation options for students with disabilities to include alternative assessments leading to a standard diploma. These options would be available for students with disabilities for whom the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is not an accurate measure of their abilities even with available accommodations.

The table below lists options that will be considered in the development of alternative assessments, pending legislative authority, for students with disabilities for whom the FCAT is not an accurate measure of their abilities even with expanded accommodations.

<b>A. PRESENTATION:</b>	CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
<b><i>VISUAL ACCOMMODATIONS</i></b>	
Use multiple means for presenting a concept or posing a test question – e.g., in text (word problem) and graphically (A17).	X
Reduce use of complex graphs or charts within the test (A19).	X
Simplify the language of the test (A20).	X
Require fewer questions, but select ones that measure all required content and skills (A21).	X
<b><i>AUDITORY ACCOMMODATIONS</i></b>	
Use a reader for reading items (A31).	X
<b>B. RESPONDING:</b>	
<b><i>ACCOMMODATIONS TO RESPONSE INPUT</i></b>	
Graphic organizer (e.g., software) to assist student in preparing written response (e.g., draft stage of response to writing prompt) (B17).	X
<b><i>ACCOMMODATIONS TO RESPONSE PREPARATION</i></b>	
Have student demonstrate understanding of answers (B18).	X
Spell checker on subtests other than spelling (B19).	X
Calculator for math problems grades 3-6 (B20).	X
<b>E. ASSISTIVE DEVICES:</b>	
Text-to-speech software for reading portion of the test (E6).	X

Item numbers (e.g., A17) correspond to the complete list of proposed accommodations approved by the State Board of Education on January 21, 2003.