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# Key Accountability and Assessment Provisions of A++ Regional Legislative Briefings

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Please note: The final presentation will be available on the Department's website on or before May 31, 2006.

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# Data Used to Measure Student Progress – Quality and Timeliness

- Commissioner will initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality and timeliness
- All student data will be integrated into K-20 Education Data Warehouse
- Uniform format for public school student progression data; annual report
- Commissioner is sole custodian of K-20 Education Data Warehouse

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# A++ Preview

- Later school start date
- School report cards
- School grade issues
  - Feeder-pattern schools
  - Alternative school grades
  - School report card

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# A++ Preview

- Student Assessment Program Issues
  - Assessment of students seeking special diploma
  - FCAT testing schedule
  - Assessment following summer academies for students in grade 8
  - FCAT equivalent scores
  - Feasibility study – end-of-course assessment

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# Later School Start Date

- Beginning in **2007-2008**, a school may not have a start date earlier than 14 days before Labor Day
- The new date will be an average of 7 days later than start dates in 2005-2006
- To accommodate the earlier start date, the department will explore the feasibility of administering the FCAT later

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# School Report Cards

- Department of Education will develop standard report card for parents
  - ❑ Includes report cards for students in alternative schools
  - ❑ Explains school grade, school improvement
  - ❑ How NCLB measures school improvement
  - ❑ Indicators on return-on-investment

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## School Grades – Special Diploma

- By 2009-2010, school grades will include learning gains of students seeking a special high school diploma, as measured by an alternate assessment
- The Department of Education will develop or obtain and implement the alternate assessment for students seeking a special diploma

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# School Grades – Feeder-Pattern Schools

- Applies to a school that is not graded because it enrolls students who are in grades K-3, any combination
- The school may be designated in a feeder-pattern
  - Feeder-pattern determined by Department of Education
  - Feeder-pattern verified by school district
- A feeder-pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students from the school are scheduled to be assigned to the graded school
- The school will receive the grade earned by its feeder-pattern school
- The school is eligible for school recognition or opportunity scholarships as accorded to its feeder-pattern school

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## School Grades –

# Alternative School-Improvement Rating

- Compared to the progress students made when attending their home schools:
  - **Improving** means students made more academic progress
  - **Maintaining** means students made equivalent academic progress
  - **Declining** means students made less academic progress

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# School Grades – Alternative Schools

- In 2005-2006, there are two options for including students in alternative schools
  - Option 1** – Grade the alternative school the same as any other school
  - Option 2** – Calculate points only for schools that choose not to be graded in 2006, but will earn a school-improvement rating in the future
- State Board of Education rule will define the process for calculating the school-improvement rating for an alternative school

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# School Grades – Alternative Schools

- Beginning in 2006-2007, there are two options for including students in alternative schools

**Option 1** – Grade the alternative school the same as any other school

**Option 2** – Calculate a school-improvement rating for an alternative school

- Count alternative school students in the grade of their home school

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# Student Assessment Program – Special High School Diploma

- **Special high school diploma**

- By 2009-2010, assessment program will include identification of readiness of students pursuing special high school diploma
- DOE will develop or select and implement an alternate assessment to accurately measure the Sunshine State Standards for students with disabilities

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# Student Assessment Program – FCAT Equivalent Scores

- Authorizes additional concordance studies between FCAT and other high school achievement tests
  - Eliminates confusion over SAT/ACT equivalent scores
  - Authorizes additional concordance studies and more uses of results (college placement and Bright Futures)

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# Student Assessment Program – Feasibility Study of End-of-Course Tests

- The Department of Education will study the cost and student-achievement impact of secondary end-of-course assessments, including web-based and performance formats
- Report due to Legislature prior to implementation