

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

---

GARY CHARTRAND, *Chair*

JOHN R. PADGET, *Vice Chair*

*Members*

ADA G. ARMAS, M.D.

SALLY BRADSHAW

JOHN A. COLÓN

BARBARA S. FEINGOLD

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

Pam Stewart  
Commissioner of Education

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officers

**FROM:** Julie Alexander, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**DATE:** October 8, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Revision to State Board of Education Rule 6A-10.0315, *Common Placement Testing and Instruction*

The State Board of Education approved an amendment to Rule 6A-10.0315, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), *Common Placement Testing and Instruction*, on September 17, 2013. The rule was amended to specify the criteria by which a student is exempted from common placement testing and developmental education; repeal provisions that need to be eliminated from the rule as a result of the passage of Senate Bill 1720; and revise common placement test scores as a result of standard setting. This rule will become effective October 22, 2013. A copy of the revised rule and the related statute, section 1008.30, F.S., are attached.

### **Developmental education exemptions**

Common placement testing and developmental education exemption provisions included in Senate Bill 1720 will go into effect Spring 2014 for current and new students. Students who entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade in a Florida public school in the 2003-04 school year, or any year thereafter, and earned a Florida standard high school diploma, or a student who is serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Services will not be required to take the common placement test and will not be required to enroll in developmental education instruction at a Florida College System institution. A student who is not required to take the common placement test and is not required to enroll in development education may opt to be assessed and may opt to enroll in developmental education, and the college shall provide such assessment and instruction upon the student's request.

RANDALL W. HANNA

CHANCELLOR, THE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM

---

325 W. GAINES STREET • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0400 • 850-245-0407 • [www.fldoe.org/fcs](http://www.fldoe.org/fcs)



Chief Academic and Student Affairs Officers

October 8, 2013

Page Two

In addition to the exemptions provided, sections 6A-10.0315 (8)-(10) of the rule have been removed to align with the provisions as outlined in Senate Bill 1720.

**Changes to college-ready cut scores**

As a result of standard setting, revisions were made to the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test college-ready cut scores for each content area. The revised scores are applicable to assessments administered on or after the effective date (October 22, 2013). Procedures for students administered assessments prior to the effective date of the rule should be held to the cut scores in effect at the time of the administration or test date. The revised scores appear below.

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test

Reading	106
Writing	103
Mathematics	114

Additionally, the reading cut score for the American College Testing Program – Enhanced ACT was revised to align with the high school graduation requirement.

American College Testing Program - Enhanced ACT\*

Reading	19
---------	----

Documentation requirements to verify the completion of alternative remediation prior to retesting were removed.

If you have questions regarding the common placement testing and developmental education exemption, please contact Dr. Tamaria Williams at [Tamaria.Williams@fldoe.org](mailto:Tamaria.Williams@fldoe.org). If you have questions regarding college-readiness assessment changes, please contact Cassandra Brown at [Cassandra.Brown@fldoe.org](mailto:Cassandra.Brown@fldoe.org).

JA/cbc

Attachments

cc: Matthew Bouck, Director, Office of Articulation  
Mary Jane Tappen, Division of Public Schools (DPS)  
Sandy Dilger, DPS  
Cassandra Brown, Division of Florida Colleges (DFC)  
Tamaria Williams, DFC  
Florida College System (FCS) Registrars/Admissions Officers  
FCS Dual Enrollment Coordinators  
FCS Advisors  
FCS Test Administrators

### 6A-10.0315 Common Placement Testing and Instruction.

(1) The purpose of this rule is to establish the test scores a student must achieve to demonstrate readiness to perform college-level work pursuant to Section 1008.30, F.S. A student who demonstrates readiness by achieving or exceeding the test scores established herein and enrolls in a Florida College System institution within two (2) years after achieving such scores shall not be required to retest or complete developmental education at a Florida College System institution. A student admitted to a Florida College System institution whose score on the common placement test indicates a need for developmental education must be advised of all the developmental education options offered at the institution and, after advisement, shall be allowed to enroll in the developmental education option of his or her choice.

(a) Further in accordance with Section 1008.30, F.S., a student who entered 9th grade in a Florida public school in the 2003-2004 school year, or any year thereafter, and earned a Florida standard high school diploma or a student who is serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Services shall not be required to take the common placement test and shall not be required to enroll in developmental education instruction in a Florida College System institution. However, a student who is not required to take the common placement test and is not required to enroll in developmental education under this paragraph may opt to be assessed and to enroll in developmental education instruction, and the college shall provide such assessment and instruction upon the student's request.

(b) With the exception of students who meet the criteria for an exemption from common placement testing and developmental education instruction identified in subsection (1) of this rule, first-time-in-college degree seeking students and students who have not met college level competency either through the completion of developmental education requirements in the Florida College System or have not been awarded credit for college level coursework in the area of deficiency shall be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency prior to the completion of initial registration, using the Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.). "Developmental education requirements" are the courses required when a student does not meet the college ready cut score. It is also referred to as remediation or preparatory instruction. Students earning scores less than those listed below shall enroll in developmental education communication and computation instruction in the area of the deficiency:

	Standard Score
Reading	106
Writing	103
Mathematics	114

(c) Students who meet or exceed the scores shown below, and enroll in a Florida College System institution within 2 years of achieving such a score are exempted from taking the Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test:

	Standard Score
Accuplacer, The College Board	
Reading Comprehension	83
Writing Skills	83
Elementary Algebra	72
SAT, The College Board	
Verbal	440
Mathematics	440
Enhanced ACT, American College Testing Program	
Reading	19
English	17
Mathematics	19

(d) A score of 262 on Grade 10 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 (FCAT 2.0) Reading demonstrates

readiness for college-level coursework in reading and writing. Students who achieve such a score and enroll in a Florida College System institution within 2 years of achieving such a score are exempted from taking the reading and writing subtests of the Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test pursuant to subsection (1) above.

(2) School districts must administer the Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test or an approved alternative identified in paragraph (1)(c) of this rule to high school students who meet the criteria established in Section 1008.30(3), F.S., except those students who have passed an alternative assessment as described in paragraph (1)(c) of this rule. High school students are exempt from payment for tests administered pursuant to Section 1008.30(3), F.S. Students who do not meet or exceed the scores established in subsection (1) of this rule must complete postsecondary preparatory instruction prior to high school graduation.

(3) Nothing provided in subsection (1) of this rule shall be construed to prevent the enrollment of a student in developmental education instruction.

(4) Students whose first language is not English may be placed in college preparatory instruction prior to the testing required herein, if such instruction is otherwise demonstrated as being necessary. Such students shall not be exempted from the testing required herein.

(5) Institutions affected by this rule shall accept the highest test scores on any of the tests or combination of tests identified in subsection (1) of this rule. Individual student scores shall be valid for two (2) years. Institutions shall accept P.E.R.T. scores on the public high school transcript as an official record of scores.

(6) Student P.E.R.T. records and test scores are confidential education records under Section 1002.221, F.S. Institutions are required to comply with Section 1002.221, F.S., in maintaining confidentiality of these records.

(7) The Commissioner shall report to the State Board of Education each year the results of the common placement testing.

*Rulemaking Authority 1001.02(6), 1008.30(3), (4) FS. Law Implemented 1001.02, 1008.30 FS. History—New 7-15-84, Amended 6-6-85, Formerly 6A-10.315, Amended 5-17-88, 7-25-91, 10-18-94, 8-28-95, 6-25-96, 3-28-00, 2-12-12, 8-21-12, 6-27-13, 10-22-13.*

1008.30 Common placement testing for public postsecondary education.—

(1) The State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors, shall develop and implement a common placement test for the purpose of assessing the basic computation and communication skills of students who intend to enter a degree program at any public postsecondary educational institution. Alternative assessments that may be accepted in lieu of the common placement test shall also be identified in rule. Public postsecondary educational institutions shall provide appropriate modifications of the test instruments or test procedures for students with disabilities.

(2) The common placement testing program shall include the capacity to diagnose basic competencies in the areas of English, reading, and mathematics which are essential for success in meta-majors and to provide test information to students on the specific skills the student needs to attain.

(3) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that require high schools to evaluate before the beginning of grade 12 the college readiness of each student who scores Level 2 or Level 3 on grade 10 FCAT Reading or the English Language Arts assessment under s. [1008.22](#), as applicable, or Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 on the Algebra I assessment under s. [1008.22](#). High schools shall perform this evaluation using results from the corresponding component of the common placement test prescribed in this section, or an alternative test identified by the State Board of Education. The high school shall use the results of the test to advise the students of any identified deficiencies and to provide 12th grade students, and require them to complete, appropriate postsecondary preparatory instruction before high school graduation. The curriculum provided under this subsection shall be identified in rule by the State Board of Education and encompass Florida's Postsecondary Readiness Competencies. Other elective courses may not be substituted for the selected postsecondary mathematics, reading, writing, or English Language Arts preparatory course unless the elective course covers the same competencies included in the postsecondary mathematics, reading, writing, or English Language Arts preparatory course.

(4) By October 31, 2013, the State Board of Education shall establish by rule the test scores a student must achieve to demonstrate readiness to perform college-level work, and the rules must specify the following:

(a) A student who entered 9th grade in a Florida public school in the 2003-2004 school year, or any year thereafter, and earned a Florida standard high school diploma or a student who is serving as an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Services shall not be required to take the common placement test and shall not be required to enroll in developmental education instruction in a Florida College System institution. However, a student who is not required to take the common placement test and is not required to enroll in developmental education under this paragraph may opt to be assessed and to enroll in

developmental education instruction, and the college shall provide such assessment and instruction upon the student's request.

(b) A student who takes the common placement test and whose score on the test indicates a need for developmental education must be advised of all the developmental education options offered at the institution and, after advisement, shall be allowed to enroll in the developmental education option of his or her choice.

(c) A student who demonstrates readiness by achieving or exceeding the test scores established by the state board and enrolls in a Florida College System institution within 2 years after achieving such scores shall not be required to retest or complete developmental education when admitted to any Florida College System institution.

(5) By December 31, 2013, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors, shall approve a series of meta-majors and the academic pathways that identify the gateway courses associated with each meta-major. Florida College System institutions shall use placement test results to determine the extent to which each student demonstrates sufficient communication and computation skills to indicate readiness for his or her chosen meta-major. Florida College System institutions shall counsel students into college credit courses as quickly as possible, with developmental education limited to that content needed for success in the meta-major.

(6)(a) Each Florida College System institution board of trustees shall develop a plan to implement the developmental education strategies defined in s. [1008.02](#) and rules established by the State Board of Education. The plan must be submitted to the Chancellor of the Florida College System for approval no later than March 1, 2014, for implementation no later than the fall semester 2014. Each plan must include, at a minimum, local policies that outline:

1. Documented student achievements such as grade point averages, work history, military experience, participation in juried competitions, career interests, degree major declaration, or any combination of such achievements that the institution may consider, in addition to common placement test scores, for advising students regarding enrollment options.
2. Developmental education strategies available to students.
3. A description of student costs and financial aid opportunities associated with each option.
4. Provisions for the collection of student success data.
5. A comprehensive plan for advising students into appropriate developmental education strategies based on student success data.

(b) Beginning October 31, 2015, each Florida College System institution shall annually prepare an accountability report that includes student success data relating to each developmental education strategy implemented by the institution. The report shall be submitted to the Division of Florida Colleges by October 31 in a format determined by the Chancellor of the Florida College System. By December 31, the chancellor shall compile and

submit the institutional reports to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the State Board of Education.

(c) A university board of trustees may contract with a Florida College System institution board of trustees for the Florida College System institution to provide developmental education on the state university campus. Any state university in which the percentage of incoming students requiring developmental education equals or exceeds the average percentage of such students for the Florida College System may offer developmental education without contracting with a Florida College System institution; however, any state university offering college-preparatory instruction as of January 1, 1996, may continue to provide such services.

(7) A student may not be enrolled in a college credit mathematics or English course on a dual enrollment basis unless the student has demonstrated adequate precollegiate preparation on the section of the basic computation and communication skills assessment required pursuant to subsection (1) that is appropriate for successful student participation in the course.

History.—s. 373, ch. 2002-387; s. 124, ch. 2007-217; s. 19, ch. 2008-235; s. 10, ch. 2010-22; s. 106, ch. 2011-5; s. 26, ch. 2011-175; s. 14, ch. 2011-177; s. 35, ch. 2013-27; s. 19, ch. 2013-51.