



SANDRA "SAM" HIMMEL – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

*"Where Learning is the Expectation  
And Caring is a Commitment"*

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January 20, 2010,

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to inform you of some changes in graduation requirements for Florida public school students that entered the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2009-10 school year due to a transition in the statewide assessment system.

The current 10<sup>th</sup> grade comprehensive assessments required for graduation are now known as FCAT-1 Grade 10 Reading and Mathematics. 2010 will be the last administration of this version of the FCAT. The following assessments will be offered in spring 2011 as your student's first opportunity to meet his or her assessment portion of the graduation requirements.

- **Reading:** The new reading assessment will be known as FCAT-2 Grade 10 Reading. The difference between FCAT-1 and FCAT-2 is that the new test is aligned to the updated Sunshine State Standards, known as the Next Generation Standards. You can review these new standards at <http://www.floridastandards.org/index.aspx>. Since this will be the first administration of this test, the passing score required by your student will be set as a linked score to the FCAT-1 Reading test.
- **Mathematics:** The mathematics assessment offered will be the FCAT-1 Grade 10 Mathematics Retake. As the state transitions to end-of-course assessments to meet graduation requirements, a new comprehensive Grade 10 mathematics assessment is not being developed in lieu of developing end-of-course mathematics assessments. The passing scale score for the FCAT-1 Grade 10 Mathematics Retake is 300.

Your student will have multiple opportunities to meet these requirements. Following the Spring 2011 administration, FCAT-2 Reading Retakes and FCAT-1 Mathematics Retakes will be offered each fall and spring for students who did not pass in the spring of grade 10. In addition, if a student takes the Grade 10 FCAT three times and does not pass, ACT or SAT concordant scores may be used to meet the requirement.

If you have any questions about this information, you may visit <http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcatpub3.asp>. As legislation changes regarding these requirements, we will continue to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Sandra "Sam" Himmel  
Superintendent of Schools  
Citrus County