



December 2009

Dear 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents/Guardians:

The Florida Department of Education is making some important transitions in their testing program, which will go into effect next year. This year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders, scheduled for graduation in 2013, will be taking the **Reading FCAT-2** assessment in their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, instead of the FCAT-1 as students did in prior years. For FCAT Mathematics, next year, 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the **FCAT-1 Retake version**. More details are provided below.

The FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) is the standardized measure of grade level proficiency for grades 3-10. Passing both grade 10 FCAT Reading and Mathematics tests is a graduation requirement in the State of Florida.

This fall, the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Eric J. Smith, notified School District Superintendents of the following Reading and Mathematics Assessment Updates:

- **Grade 10 students in 2010-11 will participate in the baseline, or first operational, administration of the Grade 10 FCAT-2 Reading.** Students taking the Grade 10 FCAT-2 Reading for the first time in Spring 2011 will not be held to new passing standards. We anticipate that students will continue to have several options for meeting the high school graduation requirement, including the regular FCAT-2 administration, retake administrations, and the use of concordant scores. The passing standard for all of these options will be equivalent to the currently required scale scores (Grade 10 FCAT-1 Reading Score: 300). This equivalence will be accomplished through special studies conducted after the baseline administration of the Grade 10 FCAT-2 Reading.
- **Grade 10 students in 2010-11 will take the retake version of FCAT-1 Mathematics.** This version of the test does not include short-response or extended-response items, only multiple-choice and gridded response items.

To summarize, next year when your son or daughter takes his or her graduation tests in Reading and Mathematics, he/she will be taking the FCAT-2 in Reading and the FCAT-1 Retake in Mathematics. The Volusia School District will continue to keep you informed as the Florida Department of Education makes the transition to FCAT-2. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact my office at the extension below.

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