



WALTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NOTICE OF CHANGE IN GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADE 9 DURING THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State of Florida has recently adopted the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards as the required instruction for its public school students. These standards are more descriptive and have higher expectations for student performance than do the previous Sunshine State Standards and the performance of our students should improve as a result of their use. The annual Florida Comprehensive Assessment Tests (FCAT) are being restructured to reflect these new expectations for instruction. As the FCAT-1 (previous version) transitions to the FCAT-2 (new version), the Walton County School District is required to provide notice of the following changes in graduation requirements that will apply to the students entering ninth grade for the first time during the 2009-2010 school year.

CHANGES IN THE READING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Students entering ninth grade for the first time during the 2009-2010 school year will take the FCAT-2 during their tenth grade year (Spring, 2011) to meet the graduation requirement in reading. Since this will be the first, baseline, administration of this test, a passing score will not have been set by that time. Consequently, these students will be required to make the same scores for passing as in previous years (300 scale score on the FCAT, 15 concurrent score on the ACT or a 410 concurrent score on the SAT).

CHANGES IN THE MATHEMATICS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

It is anticipated that the high school mathematics graduation requirement will transition to end-of-course exams in Algebra and Geometry beginning next year. Therefore, high school versions of the FCAT-2 are not being prepared at this time. Students entering the ninth grade for the first time during the 2009-2010 school year will take the FCAT-1 Retake Assessment during their tenth grade year (Spring, 2010) to meet the graduation requirement in mathematics. The Retake Assessment differs from the regular test in that it will have no short response or extended response items and will contain only multiple choice and gridded response items. The passing score will remain the same as in previous years (300 scale score on the FCAT, 15 concurrent score on the ACT and a 370 concurrent score on the SAT).

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