

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND ASSESSMENT

3370 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite B-250
West Palm Beach, FL 33406-5871

Ph. (561) 434-8850 Fax (561) 434-8903
www.palmbeachschools.org/dre/

November 22, 2011
Bulletin #P-14085-PA/REA

Contact Person:
Cherie Boone
(561) 434-8855/48855

Action during
FCAT/FCAT 2.0/EOC
testing windows

TO: Principals

FROM: Judith Klinek, Chief Academic Officer *JK*

SUBJECT: RECENT CHANGES TO THE 2012 FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT/FCAT 2.0/EOC)

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) recently informed school districts of significant changes to the 2012 FCAT/FCAT 2.0/EOC testing programs. The purpose of this bulletin is to provide you with this information.

Test Security

- Before testing, students must read and sign/click an agreement to a student pledge. The student pledge states: "I agree that I will not give or receive unauthorized help during this test. I understand that giving or receiving such help during the test is cheating and will result in the invalidation of my test results." Students who do not agree to the pledge cannot take the test.
 - For writing, the pledge (with signature line) is located on the back of the Writing planning sheet.
 - For paper/pencil reading, mathematics, and science tests, the pledge (with signature line) is located within the test booklets.
 - For CBT tests, the pledge (with check box) is located on the first screen after the "Welcome" screen.
- In an effort to enhance communication with parents/guardians and to help them understand FDOE testing security policies prior to taking a statewide assessment, the FDOE will provide parent letters for schools to use if they choose. One letter communicates information regarding computer-based administrations; the other communicates information regarding paper-based administrations. These letters may be modified to meet the needs of your school, but the factual content regarding policies should not be altered.
- Test administrators are required to maintain an accurate seating chart for each group of students in their rooms during testing. After testing, the school assessment coordinator must make copies of all seating charts, file the copies, and return the original charts in the District Assessment Coordinator ONLY box.

- The mandated *FCAT Administration and Security Agreement* has been revised to emphasize the importance of proper training and the possible consequences of test administration irregularities.
- In addition to the *FCAT Administration and Security Agreement*, test administrators are now required to sign a *Test Administrator Prohibited Activities Agreement* indicating that they understand
 - that certain activities are prohibited to engage in before, during, and after the test administration and
 - the possible consequences should they choose to engage in any of these inappropriate behaviors.
- The *FCAT Administration and Security Agreement* and the *Test Administrator Prohibited Activities Agreement* may be copied together so that a single duplexed page can be distributed to each test administrator. School assessment coordinators must file the signed forms after the test administration is complete.

Test Administration

- For CBT administrations, the ESE and 504 accommodations of zoom, screen reader, color contrast, and large print will be available via TestHear software. Paper-based large print forms will not be available for CBT administrations.


FCAT Writing

- For both the December Writing Field Test and the Spring FCAT Writing Test, the writing prompt is included within the Writing folders, as it had been in years prior to the Spring 2011 FCAT Writing administration. Feedback from schools and districts indicated that inclusion of the writing prompt in the Writing folder was generally preferred over the separate prompt sheets implemented this past year.

Any further changes to Spring 2012 FCAT/FCAT 2.0/EOC administrations that the District may receive will be communicated to schools.

EWG/JK/MB/MH/CB/vf

Approved: _____


E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent