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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock
Chancellor
Public Schools

Jay Pfeiffer
Deputy Commissioner
Accountability, Research, and Measurement for Assessment

DATE: July 8, 2008

SUBJECT: PSAT and PLAN Student Testing

We are pleased to announce that the Florida Legislature has again appropriated funds for the administration of the PSAT or PLAN pre-college entrance examinations to Grade 10 students in public high schools. This program contributes to increased access to colleges and universities for our high school students. Please inform students about the testing program and encourage their participation.

Test results will provide each high school guidance counselor with student assessment data that will help identify students who are ready for or who need additional work in order to enroll and be successful in Advanced Placement and other college preparatory courses. Materials are also available to allow guidance counselors to use preliminary examinations to identify students who can be successful in advanced courses if given the encouragement and information on the importance of these courses to their future success.

In accordance with Section 1007.35(5), Florida Statutes, *each public high school, including, but not limited to, schools and alternative sites and centers of the Department of Juvenile Justice, shall provide for the administration of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), or Preliminary ACT (PLAN) to all enrolled 10th grade students. However, a written notice shall be provided to each parent that shall include the opportunity to exempt his or her child from taking the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN.* The tests are scheduled to be administered from September to December (PLAN) or October (PSAT).

DR. FRANCES HAITHCOCK
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The Department is providing a Technical Assistance Paper (Attachment A) to answer the most frequently asked questions relative to this program. Also, we are providing a Florida Pre-College Entrance Examination Program Selection Form (Attachment B) to be completed with the estimated number of participants and submitted no later than Friday, July 18, 2008, via e-mail to Kira.Sullivan@fldoe.org.

If you have questions, please contact Victoria Ash via e-mail at Victoria.Ash@fldoe.org or by telephone, (850) 245-0513.

Thank you for your cooperation.

CSO/ks

Attachments

CC: Victoria Ash
Cornelia S. Orr, Ph.D.
Adeola Fayemi
Pam Stewart
Iris C. Wilson