

**Florida Department of Education
Education and Exit Options for Students Who Did Not Earn Passing Scores
on the March 2004 FCAT**

By participating in continuing education, students may earn a diploma, improve their ability to obtain a job or advance in the workplace, enroll in higher education or technical training, or fulfill a lifelong goal. Students who did not earn passing scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) in March 2004 have the following options for continuing education.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Continuation of High School Education

Students may continue their educational program through attendance in summer school or during the next school year, followed by retaking the FCAT. The case management team should consider the number of credits that a student has earned, the student's grade point average (GPA), and how close the student's FCAT scores are to the required scores in order to determine which option is best for the student

- remediation activities in summer school, such as accelerated credit or competency-based instruction for credit deficiency, grade forgiveness to improve student's GPA of less than 2.0, and skills remediation to earn passing scores on the FCAT
- an additional semester or full year of high school education in 2004-2005, including intense remediation in deficient areas
- remediation and FCAT preparation classes available at adult and community education centers.

General Educational Development (GED) Exit Option Model

The GED Exit Option Model is an effective strategy for students who do not have the required credit hours, do not have the required GPA, or have not earned passing scores on the FCAT. In 2002-2003, more than 2,000 students participated in this option, and 92.2% of these students passed the GED Tests. All of these students were deficient in credits or did not meet the required minimum GPA for graduation. Based on follow-up data, these students were employed at a higher rate than other high school graduates and students who had dropped out of school and had higher quarterly earnings than other high school graduates and dropouts.

- The GED Exit Option Model requires that the student continue to be enrolled in courses leading to a standard diploma and participate in a GED pre-test.
- If the student takes and passes the GED tests before the end of the school year, he or she can graduate with a State of Florida Diploma and participate

in all graduation activities. This includes students who may be credit-deficient or who do not meet the minimum 2.0 GPA requirement.

- If the student passes the GED Tests before the end of the school year and later passes the FCAT, he or she will graduate with a standard high school diploma and may participate in all graduation activities. This includes students who are credit-deficient or who do not meet the minimum 2.0 GPA requirement.
- Students with disabilities may be offered the opportunity to request accommodations for taking the GED Tests. The use of nonstandard editions or accommodations of the standard administration procedures are permitted in accordance with guidelines developed by the American Council on Education. Nonstandard editions include audiocassette, Braille, and large print. Accommodations include extended time, private room, frequent breaks, interpreter, scribe, and calculator.
- For more information, contact the School District Dropout Prevention Coordinator or Adult Education Coordinator. For a copy of the *GED Exit Option Model Procedure Manual*, contact the Clearinghouse Information Center, Florida Department of Education, at (850) 245-0477 or email cicbiscs@fldoe.org

Certificate of Completion Followed by Continued Education

Students who have completed the required coursework for graduation but have not earned passing scores on the FCAT or have not achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 are eligible to receive a certificate of completion. The certificate of completion does not carry any of the privileges of a standard high school diploma. These students should be encouraged to participate in summer school, return for continued education during the following school year, or enroll in a GED preparation program through an adult education program.

Common Placement Test (CPT)-Eligible Certificate of Completion Followed by Continued Education

- Students who meet all requirements for graduation with a standard diploma except earning passing scores on the Grade 10 FCAT are eligible for a CPT-eligible certificate of completion.
- Students who receive a CPT-eligible certificate of completion may enroll directly in community college or postsecondary career and technical education programs. Students may enroll in college credit courses if they pass the CPT with scores that meet the cutoff for admission into college credit courses. Students who do not meet the cutoff score are eligible to enroll in remedial coursework at the community college.
- For additional information regarding CPT-eligible certificate of completion, refer to the technical assistance paper FY 2004-09, transmitted via DPA Memo #04-083, dated February 18, 2004, "High School Graduation – House Bill 23B" (available online at <http://info.fldoe.org/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-1861/TAP.pdf>).

Additional Graduation Options for Students with Disabilities

- Some students with disabilities may receive an FCAT waiver and be awarded a standard diploma. This decision is made by the individual educational plan (IEP) team, and the student must meet all the requirements, including credits and GPA. For high school seniors with disabilities, refer to the May 2, 2003, memo, "Legislative Changes in High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities That Impact This Year's Seniors" (available online at <http://info.fldoe.org/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-1104/LegislativeChangesSupt.pdf>). Also refer to DPS Memo # 04-060, dated December 18, 2003, "2003-2004 Waiver Form for the Florida FCAT" (available online at <http://info.fldoe.org/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-1711/FCATmemo.pdf>) and attachment available online at http://info.fldoe.org/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-1746/DPS_04-060waiver.pdf) or by calling the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, at 850-245-0478.
- A special certificate of completion is available to students with disabilities who are unable to meet all the requirements for a special diploma.
- Students with disabilities who have not been awarded a standard diploma or its equivalent may choose to remain enrolled and continue to receive exceptional student education (ESE) services in pursuit of a standard diploma or its equivalent until their 22nd birthday.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Adult High School Credit Program

The adult high school credit program includes courses designed for students to obtain credits required for completion of secondary requirements. Students must successfully complete these courses and earn passing scores on the FCAT in order to qualify for a high school diploma. In general, the graduation standards for adults are the same as those for secondary students. Instruction is designed to accommodate the needs of students requiring instruction in more than one high school subject area. Students must pass each course in which they are enrolled.

GED Preparation Program in Adult Education

GED Preparation Programs are offered at technical centers, adult and community education centers, and community colleges. Parents must be informed that students who choose the GED preparation program are withdrawn from their high school program and enrolled in adult education. Local school board rules must identify extraordinary circumstances for 16- to 17-year-old students who are allowed to take the GED tests. Documentation of extraordinary

circumstances and approval by the superintendent must be obtained for each student on an individual basis.

- Students who successfully pass the GED tests are awarded a State of Florida Diploma. For information regarding the GED tests, call the toll-free number 1-877-352-4331.
- Community colleges offer summer programs that focus on addressing academic deficiencies before students enter the community college.

For information regarding adult education programs, visit www.12thgradeoptions.org, which provides contact information for Florida's district directors of adult education, or contact the Florida Department of Education's Workforce Education office at 1-800-315-0833.