

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Dr. Tony Bennett
Commissioner of Education



April 10, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida College System Presidents

FROM: Tony Bennett

SUBJECT: Private Middle School Students Transitioning to Public High Schools in Need of Testing

At the request of the State Board of Education, the department seeks your assistance in offering private middle school students transitioning to public schools with the opportunity to take the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) on your college campuses. The department is currently working to establish a concordant score for PERT that will allow students to use the PERT to satisfy the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment requirement for graduation from a public high school. Our school districts are also being asked to provide opportunities for these students to sit for the Algebra 1 EOC at their local high school, but we want to ensure that there is another, more flexible option for these private middle school students to meet the Algebra 1 EOC requirement prior to the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. We anticipate most of the middle school students will be seeking a testing opportunity during the months of May and June of this year. We estimate that only about 6,000 students statewide will want to take advantage of these options and many will likely do so by taking the Algebra 1 EOC at their local high school at the appropriate time.

Your active collaboration with private school students and your local school districts is greatly appreciated. In the same spirit of collaboration, I ask that you consider allowing these private middle school students who have taken Algebra 1 an opportunity to take the PERT Mathematics at a cost of no more than \$10. Your policies regarding testing security should not be adjusted or jeopardized for the purposes of this request.

Florida College System Presidents

Page Two

April 10, 2013

I have read with interest the recent news about the economic impact of the Florida College System and I congratulate each of you for a job well done. As Commissioner of Education, I look forward to getting to know each of you and growing a strong and effective partnership.

Cc: Florida College System Vice Presidents, Academic and Student Affairs
Florida College System Test Administrators
Randy Hanna, Chancellor, Florida College System
Julie Alexander, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Division of Florida Colleges