



FLORIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 18, 2002

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
High School Principals
School Guidance Counselors

FROM: Jim Horne, Secretary of Education

SUBJECT: Class of 2003: October 2002 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Results, Targeted Assistance for Seniors and Additional Funding to Support Remediation Activities for Students with Disabilities

Given that passing the FCAT is one of the requirements for graduation with a standard diploma, it is critical that 12th graders are provided with appropriate targeted assistance during the second semester. Many districts and schools have reported successful remediation strategies including:

- enrollment in intensive reading and math classes during the school day
- additional targeted instruction in reading and/or math before or after the school day or on weekends
- extended hours for the media center so that students and parents can have access to the FCAT Explorer

These 12th grade students, including students with disabilities, must be provided with opportunities for targeted remediation in the 10th grade Sunshine State Standards prior to the next administration of the FCAT. To ensure that students with disabilities are included in these remediation efforts, I am pleased to announce the availability of \$4,469,120.00 in additional funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). To receive these additional funds, districts must submit to the Department of Education a plan of action for addressing the instructional needs of 12th grade students with disabilities who have not passed one or both sections of the FCAT and are scheduled to graduate in 2003 with a standard diploma. Your district's plan must reflect collaborative efforts between your exceptional student education (ESE) and secondary staff and may be used to expand current remedial programs to include students with disabilities. The application for these funds has been sent to your district's ESE director under separate cover.

CHARLIE CRIST

COMMISSIONER

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

325 W. GAINES STREET
SUITE 1614
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399
www.flboe.org
(850) 201-7400

It is also important to keep parents informed of their child's progress in meeting the graduation requirements. Districts have indicated that they provide parents with such information via individual telephone calls, conferences, and/or letters.

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Materials that are available from the DOE for use at school or at home for remediation for the 10th grade FCAT can be found on a “new” hotlink on the DOE homepage at myfloridaeducation.com. These materials include:

- information to sign up for the FCAT Explorer
- FCAT Sample Test Materials
- FCAT Products List
- FCAT Lessons Learned

Additionally, last year your district received copies of the FCAT Performance Scoring Software, an interactive CD that contains sample performance tasks, actual student responses and scoring information for each response. Additional copies of the CD are available from the Department’s Assessment and School Performance Office.

Students who do not meet the graduation requirements receive a certificate of completion or a special diploma in some circumstances for students with disabilities. Consistent with state law, all students have the right to receive an additional year of instruction beyond grade 12. Students with disabilities who do not graduate with a standard diploma are also eligible to remain in school and receive instruction through the year in which they turn 22.

We all must continue to work together to ensure that our students are provided with appropriate instruction and that parents and students are informed of their progress towards meeting the state’s graduation requirements. The Department staff stand ready to assist you in these efforts.

cc: Directors of Exceptional Student Education
Coordinators of Assessment
Directors of Student Services
Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction