FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Jane Fletcher
Interim Deputy Commissioner
Accountability, Research, and Measurement

DATE: July 23, 2012

SUBJECT: **PSAT and PLAN Student Testing**

We are pleased to announce that the Florida Legislature has again appropriated funds for the administration of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or Preliminary ACT (PLAN) pre-college entrance examinations to grade 10 students in public high schools.

Student assessment data from test results will help high school counselors determine student readiness and potential for success in Advanced Placement and other college preparatory courses, and to identify students who may need additional instruction before enrolling in such courses. Materials are also available to assist guidance counselors in using data to recognize students who, with encouragement and an increased understanding of the role of advanced courses in their academic careers, could be successful in such courses.

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 in October (PSAT).

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding this program are provided in Attachment A. Also attached is a Florida Pre-College Entrance Examination Program Selection Form (Attachment B) to be completed by your district assessment coordinator and submitted no later than Friday, August 3, 2012, via email to Kira.Sullivan@fldoe.org or fax to (850) 245-0781.

If you have questions, please contact Kira Sullivan at Kira.Sullivan@fldoe.org or (850) 245-0513.

Thank you for your cooperation.

JF/ks

Attachments

CC: District Assessment Coordinators
Victoria Ash
Randy Hanna
Kathy Hebda
Fred Heid
Sharon Koon
Helen Lancashire
Pam Stewart
Mary Jane Tappen