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MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Cheri Pierson Yecke, Ph.D.
Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools

Hanna Skandera
Deputy Commissioner
Accountability, Research and Measurement

DATE: June 8, 2006

SUBJECT: PSAT and PLAN Student Testing

In support of the Florida Department of Education's commitment to Set, Align, and Apply Academic Curricular and Testing Standards, we are pleased to announce that the Florida Legislature has 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 college admission for our high school students. Please take steps to 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 Florida Statute 1007.35, *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 10thgrade 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).

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, June 30, 2006, via email 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, or SunCom 205-0513.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachments

CPY/HS/ks

cc: District Assistant Superintendents of Instruction
District Coordinators of Assessment
Linda Owens
Mary Hendrix
Cornelia Orr
Kris Ellington