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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Frances Haithcock
Chancellor
K-12 Public Schools

Jeff Sellers
Acting Deputy Commissioner
Accountability, Research, and Measurement

DATE: July 14, 2009

SUBJECT: PSAT and PLAN Student Testing

We are pleased to announce that the 2009 Florida Legislature appropriated funds for the administration of the PSAT or PLAN pre-college entrance examination to grade 10 students in public high schools. This program allows Florida's high school students to have the potential for increased access to colleges and universities. Although this program is not mandatory, please 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 available to allow guidance counselors to use preliminary examinations to identify students who can be successful in advanced courses if given the encouragement, as well as information on the importance of these courses for use with students.

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 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 October (PSAT).

Attachment A provides answers to the most frequently asked questions relative to this program. In addition, Attachment B is the *Florida Pre-College Entrance Examination Program Selection Form* which must be completed to indicate test selection and the estimated number of participants in each district. This form must be submitted no later than Friday, July 17, 2009, via email to Kira.Sullivan@fldoe.org.

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

VA/ks

Attachments

CC: Victoria Ash
Kathy Hebda
Mary Jane Tappen
Nikolai Vitti