

HB 67

2013

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student assessment in the public
3 schools; terminating administration of the Florida
4 Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) to students in
5 grades 9 through 12; requiring specified standardized
6 tests to replace the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of
7 measuring a student's knowledge and skills; requiring
8 students to earn passing scores designated by the
9 State Board of Education to qualify for a standard
10 high school diploma; requiring use of student
11 performance on the specified standardized tests for
12 school grading purposes; providing application;
13 providing an effective date.

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15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Notwithstanding ss. 1003.428, 1003.429, and
18 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law to the
19 contrary, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) shall
20 not be administered to students in grades 9 through 12. The
21 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
22 (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT Explore and ACT Plan tests shall replace
23 the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a student's
24 knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and writing. The
25 PSAT/NMSQT shall be taken by students in grade 10 or the ACT
26 Explore and ACT Plan tests shall be taken by students in grades
27 9 and 10, respectively, to provide teachers and students with
28 feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses and shall be

29 used as practice and preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test or
30 the ACT Test as part of the college admission process. Students
31 must earn a passing score on the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT Explore
32 and ACT Plan tests in reading, mathematics, and writing to
33 qualify for a standard high school diploma. The State Board of
34 Education shall designate for each section of the PSAT/NMSQT and
35 the ACT Explore and ACT Plan tests a passing score that is
36 aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and
37 demonstrates the proficiency level required for high school
38 graduation. If a required passing score is raised by the State
39 Board of Education, the passing score applies only to students
40 taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT Explore and ACT Plan tests for
41 the first time after such designation. For purposes of the
42 public school grading system under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341,
43 Florida Statutes, student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT or the
44 ACT Explore and ACT Plan tests shall be used in place of student
45 performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions of this
46 section apply to public school students entering grade 9 in the
47 2014-2015 school year and thereafter.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.