

By Senator Holzendorf

2-592-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to student assessment; amending  
3           s. 229.57, F.S.; providing requirements  
4           relating to passing scores on the grade 10  
5           Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test;  
6           providing an effective date.

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

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10           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
11 229.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12           229.57 Student assessment program.--

13           (3) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.--The commissioner  
14 shall design and implement a statewide program of educational  
15 assessment that provides information for the improvement of  
16 the operation and management of the public schools, including  
17 schools operating for the purpose of providing educational  
18 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs.  
19 Pursuant to the statewide assessment program, the commissioner  
20 shall:

21           (c) Develop and implement a student achievement  
22 testing program as part of the statewide assessment program,  
23 to be administered annually in grades 3 through 10 to measure  
24 reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The testing  
25 program must be designed so that:

26           1. The tests measure student skills and competencies  
27 adopted by the state board as specified in paragraph (a). The  
28 tests must measure and report student proficiency levels in  
29 reading, writing, and mathematics. Science proficiency must be  
30 measured statewide beginning in 2003. Other content areas may  
31 be included as directed by the commissioner. The commissioner

1 shall provide for the tests to be developed or obtained, as  
2 appropriate, through contracts and project agreements with  
3 private vendors, public vendors, public agencies,  
4 postsecondary institutions, or school districts. The  
5 commissioner shall obtain input with respect to the design and  
6 implementation of the testing program from state educators and  
7 the public.

8           2. The tests are a combination of norm-referenced and  
9 criterion-referenced and include, to the extent determined by  
10 the commissioner, items that require the student to produce  
11 information or perform tasks in such a way that the skills and  
12 competencies he or she uses can be measured.

13           3. Each testing program, whether at the elementary,  
14 middle, or high school level, includes a test of writing in  
15 which students are required to produce writings which are then  
16 scored by appropriate methods.

17           4. A score is designated for each subject area tested,  
18 below which score a student's performance is deemed  
19 inadequate. The school districts shall provide appropriate  
20 remedial instruction to students who score below these levels.

21           5. Except as provided in subparagraph 6., all 11th  
22 grade students take a high school competency test developed by  
23 the state board to test minimum student performance skills and  
24 competencies in reading, writing, and mathematics. The test  
25 must be based on the skills and competencies adopted by the  
26 state board pursuant to paragraph (a). Upon recommendation of  
27 the commissioner, the state board shall designate a passing  
28 score for each part of the high school competency test. In  
29 establishing passing scores, the state board shall consider  
30 any possible negative impact of the test on minority students.  
31 The commissioner may establish criteria whereby a student who

1 successfully demonstrates proficiency in either reading or  
2 mathematics or both may be exempted from taking the  
3 corresponding section of the high school competency test or  
4 the college placement test. A student must earn a passing  
5 score or have been exempted from each part of the high school  
6 competency test in order to qualify for a regular high school  
7 diploma. The school districts shall provide appropriate  
8 remedial instruction to students who do not pass part of the  
9 competency test.

10           6. Students who enroll in grade 9 in the fall of 1999  
11 and thereafter must earn a passing score on the grade 10  
12 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) described in this  
13 paragraph instead of the high school competency test described  
14 in subparagraph 5. Such students must earn a passing score in  
15 reading, writing, and mathematics to qualify for a regular  
16 high school diploma. All students are required to earn the  
17 passing scores in reading and mathematics established by the  
18 state board for the March 2001 test administration. ~~Upon~~  
19 ~~recommendation of the commissioner, the state board shall~~  
20 ~~designate a passing score for each part of the grade 10~~  
21 ~~assessment test. In establishing passing scores, the state~~  
22 ~~board shall consider any possible negative impact of the test~~  
23 ~~on minority students.~~

24           7. Participation in the testing program is mandatory  
25 for all students, including students served in Department of  
26 Juvenile Justice programs, except as otherwise prescribed by  
27 the commissioner. The commissioner shall recommend rules to  
28 the state board for the provision of test adaptations and  
29 modifications of procedures as necessary for students in  
30 exceptional education programs and for students who have  
31 limited English proficiency.

