

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to student assessment; amending s.
 3 1008.22, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to
 4 conduct a concordance study to identify alternative
 5 examinations for the grade 10 FCAT for certain students
 6 with limited English proficiency; requiring approval of
 7 such examinations by the Commissioner of Education;
 8 providing student eligibility requirements; providing for
 9 satisfaction of the assessment requirement for high school
 10 graduation; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 1008.22, Florida
 15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.--

17 (9) EQUIVALENCIES FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS.--

18 (a)1. The Commissioner of Education shall approve the use
 19 of the SAT and ACT tests as alternative assessments to the grade
 20 10 FCAT for the 2003-2004 school year. Students who attain
 21 scores on the SAT or ACT which equate to the passing scores on
 22 the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of high school graduation shall
 23 satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school
 24 diploma as provided in s. 1003.429(6)(a) or s. 1003.43(5)(a) for
 25 the 2003-2004 school year if the students meet the requirement
 26 in subparagraph 2. ~~paragraph (b).~~

27 2.(b) A student shall be required to take the grade 10
 28 FCAT a total of three times without earning a passing score in

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29 order to use the scores on an alternative assessment pursuant to
30 subparagraph 1. ~~paragraph (a).~~ This requirement shall not apply
31 to a student who is a new student to the public school system in
32 grade 12.

33 (b) The Department of Education shall conduct a
34 concordance study to identify, and the Commissioner of Education
35 shall approve the use of, alternative examinations for the grade
36 10 FCAT that exist for major non-English-speaking subgroups in
37 the state's high school student population. To be eligible to
38 take an alternative examination in his or her native language
39 pursuant to this paragraph, a limited English proficient student
40 must have been enrolled in an ESOL program for fewer than 3
41 years and not have passed the grade 10 FCAT by the end of grade
42 12. Students who attain scores on an alternative examination
43 pursuant to this paragraph which equate to the passing scores on
44 the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of high school graduation shall
45 satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school
46 diploma as provided in s. 1003.43(5)(a).

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.