

1 (a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in
2 s. 1008.22(3)(c), or a satisfactory Standardized Test Academic
3 Grade under s. 1008.225 scores on a standardized test that are
4 ~~concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s.~~
5 ~~1008.22(9).~~

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7 The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent
8 modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida
9 Administrative Code even though not defined as "rules."

10 Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 1008.22, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12 1008.22 Student assessment program for public
13 schools.--

14 (9) EQUIVALENCIES FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS.--

15 ~~(a)~~ The Commissioner of Education shall approve the
16 use of STAG scores in accordance with s. 1008.225 ~~the SAT and~~
17 ~~ACT tests as alternative assessments to the grade 10 FCAT for~~
18 the 2007-2008 ~~2003-2004~~ school year and thereafter. Students
19 who attain satisfactory STAG scores ~~on the SAT or ACT which~~
20 ~~equate to the passing scores on the grade 10 FCAT for purposes~~
21 of high school graduation shall satisfy the assessment
22 requirement for a standard high school diploma as provided in
23 s. 1003.429(6)(a) or s. 1003.43(5)(a) ~~for the 2003-2004 school~~
24 ~~year if the students meet the requirement in paragraph (b).~~

25 ~~(b)~~ ~~A student shall be required to take the grade 10~~
26 ~~FCAT a total of three times without earning a passing score in~~
27 ~~order to use the scores on an alternative assessment pursuant~~
28 ~~to paragraph (a). This requirement shall not apply to a~~
29 ~~student who is a new student to the public school system in~~
30 ~~grade 12.~~

1 Section 3. Section 1008.225, Florida Statutes, is
2 created to read:

3 1008.225 Standardized Test Academic Grade (STAG).--

4 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds that
5 it is undesirable to evaluate all students on the basis of a
6 single assessment such as the Florida Comprehensive Assessment
7 Test (FCAT). The Legislature further finds that, in many
8 instances, it is more sensible to strike a balance between
9 standardized test scores and academic performance in assessing
10 whether a student is qualified to be a high school graduate.

11 (2) DEVELOPMENT.--Pursuant to the statewide assessment
12 program, the Commissioner of Education shall develop and
13 implement during the 2007-2008 school year the Standardized
14 Test Academic Grade, or STAG.

15 (3) PURPOSE.--Use of the Standardized Test Academic
16 Grade is intended to create a balance between the standardized
17 test scores and the academic performance of a student, to
18 enhance student options for school promotion, to increase the
19 options for a student to obtain a high school diploma, to
20 create options for school accountability, and to promote the
21 normal grading scale and common grade point average that
22 people understand.

23 (4) ELIGIBILITY TO ELECT ASSESSMENT BY STAG.--A
24 student may choose to be assessed through the STAG program if
25 the student:

26 (a) Is reading at grade level;

27 (b) Has a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or
28 better;

29 (c) Has had no major disciplinary problems or
30 disciplinary actions during high school;

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1 (d) Has not accumulated more than 21 days of absence
2 from classes during each school year in grades 9 through 12;
3 and

4 (e) Has a parent or guardian who is involved in the
5 student's education, as evidenced by the parent's or
6 guardian's having reviewed the student's portfolio at least
7 twice per academic year during grades 9 through 12.

8 (5) COMPUTATION OF STAG.--

9 (a) A student's STAG score is the average of two
10 component scores earned by the student:

- 11 1. The cumulative grade point average; and
12 2. The standardized test grade point average, or
13 STGPA, as calculated under paragraph (b).

14 (b) To calculate the STGPA, the school must:

15 1. Convert the student's FCAT scores from levels to
16 grades and assign to each grade the number of quality points
17 assigned in accordance with the scale used in calculating the
18 grade point average:

<u>FCAT Level</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Quality</u> <u>Points</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>0</u>

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27 2. Add the number of quality points that the student
28 earned on all FCAT subtests and divide by the number of FCAT
29 subtests to calculate the average of the quality points. That
30 average is the STGPA.
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