

HB 69

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student assessment in the public
3 schools; terminating the administration of the Florida
4 Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) to students in grades
5 9 through 12; requiring the Preliminary SAT/National Merit
6 Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT's
7 EXPLORE and PLAN tests to replace the grade 10 FCAT for
8 purposes of measuring a student's knowledge and skills;
9 requiring students to take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 10 or
10 the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests in grades 9 and 10,
11 respectively; requiring students to earn passing scores on
12 the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests to
13 qualify for a standard high school diploma; requiring the
14 State Board of Education to designate passing scores;
15 requiring use of student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT or
16 the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests for school grading
17 purposes; providing for application beginning with
18 students entering grade 9 in the 2012-2013 school year;
19 providing an effective date.

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

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23 Section 1. Notwithstanding ss. 1003.428, 1003.429, and
24 1008.22, Florida Statutes, and any other provision of law to the
25 contrary, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) shall
26 not be administered to students in grades 9 through 12. The
27 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
28 (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall replace

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29 the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a student's
30 knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and writing. The
31 PSAT/NMSQT shall be taken by students in grade 10 or the ACT's
32 EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall be taken by students in grades 9
33 and 10, respectively, to provide teachers and students with
34 feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses and shall be
35 used as practice and preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test
36 (SAT) or the ACT as part of the college admission process.
37 Students must earn a passing score on the PSAT/NMSQT or the
38 ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests in reading, mathematics, and
39 writing to qualify for a standard high school diploma. The State
40 Board of Education shall designate for each section of the
41 PSAT/NMSQT and the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests a passing score
42 that is aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
43 and demonstrates the proficiency level required for high school
44 graduation. If a required passing score is raised by the State
45 Board of Education, the passing score shall apply only to
46 students taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN
47 tests for the first time after such designation. For purposes of
48 the public school grading system under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341,
49 Florida Statutes, student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT or the
50 ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall be used in place of student
51 performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions of this
52 section shall apply to public school students entering grade 9
53 in the 2012-2013 school year and thereafter.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.