

HB 461

2012

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
5 grades 9 through 12; requiring the Preliminary
6 SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
7 (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests to
8 replace the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a
9 student's knowledge and skills; requiring students to
10 take the PSAT/NMSQT in grade 10 or the ACT's EXPLORE
11 and PLAN tests in grades 9 and 10, respectively;
12 requiring students to earn passing scores on the
13 PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests to
14 qualify for a standard high school diploma; requiring
15 the State Board of Education to designate passing
16 scores; requiring use of student performance on the
17 PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests for
18 school grading purposes; providing for application
19 beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2013-
20 2014 school year; providing an effective date.

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

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

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29 (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall replace
30 the grade 10 FCAT for purposes of measuring a student's
31 knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and writing. The
32 PSAT/NMSQT shall be taken by students in grade 10 or the ACT's
33 EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall be taken by students in grades 9
34 and 10, respectively, to provide teachers and students with
35 feedback on a student's strengths and weaknesses and shall be
36 used as practice and preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test
37 (SAT) or the ACT as part of the college admission process.
38 Students must earn a passing score on the PSAT/NMSQT or the
39 ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests in reading, mathematics, and
40 writing to qualify for a standard high school diploma. The State
41 Board of Education shall designate for each section of the
42 PSAT/NMSQT and the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests a passing score
43 that is aligned to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards
44 and demonstrates the proficiency level required for high school
45 graduation. If a required passing score is raised by the State
46 Board of Education, the passing score shall apply only to
47 students taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN
48 tests for the first time after such designation. For purposes of
49 the public school grading system under ss. 1008.34 and 1008.341,
50 Florida Statutes, student performance on the PSAT/NMSQT or the
51 ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN tests shall be used in place of student
52 performance on the FCAT, as applicable. The provisions of this
53 section shall apply to public school students entering grade 9
54 in the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.