

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**

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**Approved memorandum with signatures is on file.**

April 16, 2003

TO: Elementary School Principals

FROM: Katherine Blasik, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent  
Office of Research and Evaluation

Earlean Smiley, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction/Student Support

VIA: Verda Farrow, Ed.D.  
South Central Area Superintendent

SUBJECT: **ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR THIRD GRADE STUDENTS**

Florida Statute 1008.25 (5) (b) requires that third grade students who do not demonstrate mastery of reading skills must be retained. Mastery is evidenced by scoring at Achievement Level 2 or higher on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standards (SSS) Reading Test. However, the statute further states that students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education or demonstrates through a student portfolio that the student is reading on grade level may be promoted.

The State Board of Education has defined the alternate assessment as a score at or above the 51st percentile on the reading portion of the FCAT Norm-Referenced Test (NRT) or a score at or above the 51st percentile on a subsequent administration of the Reading Comprehension subtest of the Stanford Achievement Test-Ninth Edition (SAT-9). Furthermore, the State Board of Education has outlined specific conditions that the student portfolio must meet in order to demonstrate mastery of the required reading skills. Portfolio materials and guidelines will be provided to elementary schools by the Core Curriculum Department.

Pursuant to the State Board of Education, the SAT-9 may be administered within the last two weeks of school or upon receipt of the third grade FCAT SSS scores. It is anticipated Broward will receive third grade FCAT scores during the week of May 5, 2003. Therefore, staff has been working with Harcourt Educational Measurement to assure an administration within the appropriate timelines.

Alternative Assessment for Third Grade Students  
April 16, 2003

Based on this information, the **alternative assessment for third grade students is scheduled to be administered on May 20, 2003**. Additional details of the process are included below.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Delivery</b>
Delivery of materials to schools	May 12-14, 2003	Student Assessment	Pony
Grade 3 SAT-9 Administration	May 20, 2003	School Staff	--
Make-Up Administration	May 21, 2003	School Staff	--
Return of materials to Student Assessment	May 22, 2003	School Staff	Hand-Delivery

The Student Assessment Department will purchase test materials from Harcourt Educational Measurement and disseminate the test books based on an estimate of the number of students to be tested at each school. Additional materials may be requested from Kimberley Kraft, Testing Specialist, via email.

We look forward to assisting you in this matter. If you have any questions, please **contact Kimberley Kraft, Testing Specialist, Student Assessment, at (954) 940-7620 or Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum, at (954) 768-8929**.

ES/VF/AD/DC/KK:kk

Cc: Senior Management  
Area Directors