

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
RESEARCH, EVALUATION, ASSESSMENT & BOUNDARIES**

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Signatures On File

December 19, 2003

TO: Principals
Charter School Principals

FROM: Katherine Blasik, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent
Research, Evaluation, Assessment & Boundaries

VIA: Dr. Verda Farrow, Area Superintendent
South Central Area

SUBJECT: SCHOOL GRADING RULE AMENDMENT INTERPRETATION CLARIFICATION

This is to advise you that the previous memorandum regarding school grading and FCAT achievement level definitions rule amendments dated December 5, 2003, indicated the annual "learning gains" calculation will be based on only those students who take a higher grade level test in the current year than in the previous year. This interpretation was a direct result of added language to Rule 6A-1.09981 (Implementation of Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability) stating:

"The annual learning gains calculation shall be based on students who have a valid FCAT reading and/or math score in both the current and previous year, and who take a higher grade level test in the current year than in the previous year."

However, a recent update from the Department of Education indicates that this added language is meant to be applied to non-retained students only as a clarification of the methodology used to calculate learning gains. Retained students will continue to be included in learning gains calculations. Therefore, there is **no change in the calculation of annual "learning gains"** from previous years. Both retained and non-retained students will be included in the calculation of learning gains. If you have any questions about this clarification, **please call me at 954-760-7342 or Anne Dilgen, Director, Student Assessment at 754-321-4257.**

VF/KAB/AD/ML:sjm

cc: Senior Management
Area Directors
Diane Carr, Executive Director, Core Curriculum
Frank Vodolo, Executive Director, Educational Programs
Vilma Diaz, Executive Director, Bilingual, Foreign Language, and ESOL Education Programs
Leah Kelly, Director, Exceptional Student Education