A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to public school curricular standards; 3 amending s. 1003.41, F.S.; requiring the State Board of Education to review the Sunshine State Standards and 4 replace them with enhanced curricular standards; 5 6 establishing requirements for the standards; providing 7 requirements for the adoption, review, and revision of the standards; requiring evaluation of proposed standards; 8 9 authorizing the adoption of rules; amending s. 1000.21, F.S.; revising the systemwide definition of "Sunshine 10 State Standards"; amending s. 1001.03, F.S.; requiring the 11 state board to review and revise the Sunshine State 12 Standards; conforming provisions; amending s. 1001.41, 13 F.S.; conforming provisions relating to district school 14 board adoption of standards and policies; amending s. 15 16 1001.42, F.S.; prohibiting school district expenditure of legislative appropriations for purposes of Florida 17 Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) preparation; 18

instructional materials allocation for purposes of FCAT Page 1 of 43

instructional materials to align to the Sunshine State

Standards; prohibiting school district expenditure of the

providing penalties for unlawful expenditures; amending

ss. 1003.428, 1003.429, 1003.43, 1003.433, 1006.28, and

1006.31, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-references;

amending s. 1006.34, F.S.; specifying additional criteria

for evaluating instructional materials; conforming

provisions; amending s. 1006.38, F.S.; conforming

provisions; amending s. 1006.40, F.S.; requiring

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preparation; requiring notification to manufacturers and publishers; providing a penalty; authorizing purchases of certain technology devices; amending s. 1008.22, F.S.; revising requirements and conforming provisions relating to the statewide assessment program; revising powers and duties of the Commissioner of Education; requiring the FCAT to assess students in social studies by a certain time; providing for end-of-course assessments; requiring the content knowledge and skills assessed by the FCAT and end-of-course assessments to align to the Sunshine State Standards; deleting provisions relating to documentation of certain testing procedures; providing restrictions on the development or publication of test-preparation materials; revising requirements for norm-referenced tests; establishing requirements for FCAT testing and reporting schedules; prohibiting certain practice testing and FCAT-preparation activities; requiring public schools to comply with statewide assessment and reporting schedules; establishing requirements for calculating student scores on revised statewide assessments; providing for the discontinued administration of former assessments; requiring the state board to adopt rules establishing passing scores on revised assessments required for a standard high school diploma; clarifying determination of concordant scores for the FCAT; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring each district school board's student progression program to include performance in social studies; requiring assessment, remediation, and reporting related

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thereto; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; exempting certain schools from receiving school grades; revising the definition of "home school" for purposes of calculating school grades for alternative schools; requiring annual collaboration among school principals concerning the school assignment of students attending an alternative school; amending s. 1008.341, F.S.; exempting certain alternative schools from receiving school improvement ratings; amending s. 1008.345, F.S.; conforming provisions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.41 Sunshine State Standards. --

be is based on the "Sunshine State Standards." The State Board of Education shall review the Sunshine State Standards and

Public K-12 educational instruction in Florida shall

replace them with enhanced curricular standards that establish the core content of the curricula to be taught in this state and

that specify the core content knowledge and skills that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire. The enhanced

curricular standards must, at a minimum:

(a) Establish the core curricular content for language arts, science, mathematics, and social studies, as follows:

1. Language arts standards must establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, reading, grammar,

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literature, and writing. The standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 12. The language arts standards must also identify a specific list of authors, important literary works, and literary traditions that a student is expected to have read by each individual grade level. The State Board of Education shall, in accordance with the expedited schedule established under subsection (2), review and replace the reading and language arts standards adopted by the state board in 2007 with enhanced curricular standards that comply with this subparagraph.

- 2. Science standards must establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, the nature of science, earth and space science, physical science, and life science. The standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 8. The science standards for grades 9 through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level.
- 3. Mathematics standards must establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, algebra, geometry, probability, statistics, calculus, discrete mathematics, financial literacy, and trigonometry. The standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 8. The mathematics standards for grades 9 through 12 may be organized

by grade clusters of more than one grade level.

4. Social studies standards must establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, geography, history, government, civics, economics, United States patriotism, and national sovereignty. The standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 8. The social studies standards for grades 9 through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level

- (b) Establish the core curricular content for visual and performing arts, physical education, health, and foreign languages. Standards for these subjects must establish specific curricular content and include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 5. The standards for grades 6 through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level.
- (c) Identify the core curricular content that a student is expected to learn, for each subject at each individual grade level, in order to acquire the broad background knowledge needed for reading comprehension.
- (d) Be rigorous and relevant and provide for the logical, sequential progression of core curricular content that incrementally increases a student's core content knowledge and skills over time.
 - (e) Integrate critical-thinking and problem-solving

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skills; communication, reading, and writing skills; mathematics skills; collaboration skills; contextual and applied-learning skills; technology-literacy skills; information and media-literacy skills; and civic-engagement skills.

- (f) Be organized according to a uniform structure and format that is consistent for each subject. The enhanced curricular standards shall, for each subject and grade level, use the same alphanumeric coding system.
- (g) Be aligned to expectations for success in postsecondary education and high-skill, high-wage employment.
- (2) By December 31, 2008, the State Board of Education shall establish an expedited schedule for adoption of the enhanced curricular Sunshine State Standards and shall establish by rule a schedule for the periodic review and revision of the standards. The state board must adopt the enhanced curricular standards for each subject by December 31, 2011.
- (3) (a) The Commissioner of Education shall develop and submit to the State Board of Education proposed enhanced curricular Sunshine State Standards, and periodically submit proposed revisions to the standards, for adoption by the state board according to the schedules established under subsection (2). The commissioner, in developing the proposed standards, shall consult with renowned experts on K-12 curricular standards and content in each subject listed in paragraphs (1) (a) and (1) (b) and shall consider standards that are implemented by other states or nations and regarded as exceptionally rigorous by the curricular and content experts. The commissioner may also consult with curricular and content experts in other subjects.

(b) The commissioner shall submit the proposed standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of community colleges and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education, and leaders in business and industry. The commissioner, after considering any comments and making any revisions to the proposed standards, shall submit the standards for written evaluation by renowned experts on K-12 curricular standards and content.

- (c) The commissioner, upon finalizing the proposed standards, shall submit the standards and evaluations by the curricular and content experts to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at least 21 days before the State Board of Education considers adoption of the proposed standards.
- (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section. These standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education and delineate the academic achievement of students, for which the state will hold schools accountable, in grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 in the subjects of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, health and physical education, and foreign languages. They include standards in reading, writing, history, government, geography, economics, and computer literacy.
- Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.--As used in the Florida K-

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20 Education Code:

(7) "Sunshine State Standards" means the state's public K12 curricular are standards adopted under s. 1003.41 that
establish the core content of the curricula to be taught in this
state and that specify the core content knowledge and skills
that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire. The
term includes the current Sunshine State Standards for a subject
until the standards are replaced under s. 1003.41 by enhanced
curricular standards. that identify what public school students
should know and be able to do. These standards delineate the
academic achievement of students for which the state will hold
its public schools accountable in grades K 2, 3 5, 6 8, and 9
12, in the subjects of language arts, mathematics, science,
social studies, the arts, health and physical education, foreign
languages, reading, writing, history, government, geography,
economics, and computer literacy.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1001.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education .--

STANDARDS.--The State Board of Education shall adopt and periodically review and revise approve the student performance standards known as the Sunshine State Standards in accordance with s. 1003.41. key academic subject areas and grade levels. The state board shall establish a schedule to facilitate the periodic review of the standards to ensure adequate rigor, relevance, logical student progression, and integration of reading, writing, and mathematics across all subject areas. The

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standards review by subject area must include participation of curriculum leaders in other content areas, including the arts, to ensure valid content area integration and to address the instructional requirements of different learning styles. The process for review and proposed revisions must include leadership and input from the state's classroom teachers, school administrators, and community colleges and universities, and from representatives from business and industry who are identified by local education foundations. A report including proposed revisions must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually to coincide with the established review schedule. The review schedule and an annual status report must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives annually not later than January 1.

Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1001.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.41 General powers of district school board.--The district school board, after considering recommendations submitted by the district school superintendent, shall exercise the following general powers:

(3) Prescribe and Adopt standards and policies that to provide each student the opportunity to receive a complete education program, including instruction in the core curricular content established in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, foreign languages, and the arts, as defined by the Sunshine State Standards. The

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standards and policies must emphasize integration and reinforcement of reading, writing, and mathematics skills across all subjects, including career awareness, career exploration, and Career and technical education standards and policies must integrate with and reinforce the Sunshine State Standards.

Section 5. Subsection (7) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.--The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

(7) COURSES OF STUDY AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. -- Provide adequate instructional materials for all students in accordance with the requirements of chapter 1006. A school district may not expend any legislative appropriation, including, but not limited to, the instructional materials allocation, for Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) practice tests, sample test items, or practice workbooks or for any other materials dedicated to test-taking exercises or strategies designed exclusively for FCAT preparation or that include any reference to the "Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test" or "FCAT." If the Auditor General determines that a school district has violated this subsection, the department shall withhold from the next distribution of funds from the instructional materials allocation under s. 1011.67 an amount equal to the legislative appropriations expended in violation of this subsection. The district school board shall appropriately discipline the malfeasant staff responsible for the unlawful expenditure.

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Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 1003.428, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation; revised.--

- (4) Each district school board shall establish standards for graduation from its schools, which must include:
- (b) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s. 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s. $1008.22(10)\frac{(9)}{}$.

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Each district school board shall adopt policies designed to assist students in meeting the requirements of this subsection. These policies may include, but are not limited to: forgiveness policies, summer school or before or after school attendance, special counseling, volunteers or peer tutors, school-sponsored help sessions, homework hotlines, and study skills classes. Forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. Forgiveness policies for elective courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in another course. The only exception to these forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the middle

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grades who takes any high school course for high school credit and earns a grade of "C," "D," or "F" or the equivalent of a grade of "C," "D," or "F." In such case, the district forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. In all cases of grade forgiveness, only the new grade shall be used in the calculation of the student's grade point average. Any course grade not replaced according to a district school board forgiveness policy shall be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average required for graduation.

- (8)(a) Each district school board must provide instruction to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate proficiency in the core content knowledge and skills and competencies necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation.
- Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 1003.429, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1003.429 Accelerated high school graduation options. --
- (6) Students pursuing accelerated 3-year high school graduation options pursuant to paragraph (1)(b) or paragraph(1)(c) are required to:
- (a) Earn passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s. 1008.22(3)(c) or scores on a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s. $1008.22(10)\frac{(9)}{(9)}$.

Weighted grades referred to in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d)

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shall be applied to those courses specifically listed or identified by the department as rigorous pursuant to s.

1009.531(3) or weighted by the district school board for class ranking purposes.

- Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) and paragraph (a) of subsection (11) of section 1003.43, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation. --
- (5) Each district school board shall establish standards for graduation from its schools, and these standards must include:
- (a) Earning passing scores on the FCAT, as defined in s. 1008.22(3)(c), or scores on a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on the FCAT as defined in s. $1008.22(10)\frac{(9)}{}$.

The standards required in this subsection, and any subsequent modifications, shall be reprinted in the Florida Administrative

355 Code even though not defined as "rules."

- (11)(a) Each district school board must provide instruction to prepare students with disabilities to demonstrate proficiency in the core content knowledge and skills and competencies necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation.
- Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 1003.433, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1003.433 Learning opportunities for out-of-state and out-of-country transfer students and students needing additional

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instruction to meet high school graduation requirements. --

(1) Students who enter a Florida public school at the eleventh or twelfth grade from out of state or from a foreign country shall not be required to spend additional time in a Florida public school in order to meet the high school course requirements if the student has met all requirements of the school district, state, or country from which he or she is transferring. Such students who are not proficient in English should receive immediate and intensive instruction in English language acquisition. However, to receive a standard high school diploma, a transfer student must earn a 2.0 grade point average and pass the grade 10 FCAT required in s. 1008.22(3) or an alternate assessment as described in s. 1008.22(10) (9).

Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1006.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.28 Duties of district school board, district school superintendent; and school principal regarding K-12 instructional materials.--

(1) DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.--The district school board has the duty to provide adequate instructional materials for all students in accordance with the requirements of this part. The term "adequate instructional materials" means a sufficient number of textbooks or sets of materials serving as the basis for instruction for each student in the core courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature, except for instruction for which the school advisory council approves the use of a program that does not include a textbook as a major tool of instruction. The district

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school board has the following specific duties:

- (b) Textbooks.--Provide for proper requisitioning, distribution, accounting, storage, care, and use of all instructional materials furnished by the state and furnish such other instructional materials as may be needed. The district school board shall assure that instructional materials used in the district are consistent with the district goals and objectives and the curriculum frameworks adopted by rule of the State Board of Education, as well as with the state and district curricular performance standards provided for in s. 1001.03(1).
- Section 11. Subsection (4) of section 1006.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1006.31 Duties of each state instructional materials committee.--The duties of each state instructional materials committee are:
- (4) EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.--To evaluate carefully all instructional materials submitted, to ascertain which instructional materials, if any, submitted for consideration best implement the selection criteria developed by the commissioner and those curricular objectives included within applicable curricular performance standards provided for in s. 1001.03(1).
- (a) When recommending instructional materials for use in the schools, each committee shall include only instructional materials that accurately portray the ethnic, socioeconomic, cultural, and racial diversity of our society, including men and women in professional, career, and executive roles, and the role and contributions of the entrepreneur and labor in the total

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development of this state and the United States.

- (b) When recommending instructional materials for use in the schools, each committee shall include only materials which accurately portray, whenever appropriate, humankind's place in ecological systems, including the necessity for the protection of our environment and conservation of our natural resources and the effects on the human system of the use of tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, and other dangerous substances.
- (c) When recommending instructional materials for use in the schools, each committee shall require such materials as it deems necessary and proper to encourage thrift, fire prevention, and humane treatment of people and animals.
- (d) When recommending instructional materials for use in the schools, each committee shall require, when appropriate to the comprehension of students, that materials for social science, history, or civics classes contain the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. No instructional materials shall be recommended by any committee for use in the schools which contain any matter reflecting unfairly upon persons because of their race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, or occupation.
- (e) All instructional materials recommended by each committee for use in the schools shall be, to the satisfaction of each committee, accurate, objective, and current and suited to the needs and comprehension of students at their respective grade levels. Instructional materials committees shall consider for adoption materials developed for academically talented students such as those enrolled in advanced placement courses.

The findings of the committees, including the evaluation of instructional materials, shall be in sessions open to the public. All decisions leading to determinations of the committees shall be by roll call vote, and at no time will a secret ballot be permitted.

Section 12. Subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1006.34, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.34 Powers and duties of the commissioner and the department in selecting and adopting instructional materials.--

- MATERIALS.--The commissioner shall prescribe the procedures by which the department shall evaluate instructional materials submitted by publishers and manufacturers in each adoption.

 Included in these procedures shall be provisions that which afford each publisher or manufacturer or his or her representative an opportunity to present to members of the state instructional materials committees the merits of each instructional material submitted in each adoption. Beginning July 1, 2008, the procedures must prohibit the adoption of instructional materials that include any reference to the "Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test" or "FCAT" and must require any instructional materials submitted to clearly demonstrate alignment to the Sunshine State Standards.
 - (2) SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. --
- (b) In the selection of instructional materials, library books, and other reading material used in the public school

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system, the standards used to determine the propriety of the material shall include:

- 1. The age of the students who normally could be expected to have access to the material.
- 2. The educational purpose to be served by the material. In considering instructional materials for classroom use, priority shall be given to the selection of materials which encompass the state and district school board <u>curricular</u> performance standards provided for in s. 1001.03(1) and which include the instructional objectives contained within the curriculum frameworks approved by rule of the State Board of Education.
- 3. The degree to which the material would be supplemented and explained by mature classroom instruction as part of a normal classroom instructional program.
- 4. The consideration of the broad racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural diversity of the students of this state.

No book or other material containing hard-core pornography or otherwise prohibited by s. 847.012 shall be used or available within any public school district.

Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1006.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.38 Duties, responsibilities, and requirements of instructional materials publishers and manufacturers.--Publishers and manufacturers of instructional materials, or their representatives, shall:

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(3) Submit, at a time designated in s. 1006.33, the following information:

- (b) Written proof that the publisher has provided written correlations to appropriate curricular objectives included within applicable <u>curricular</u> performance standards provided for in s. 1001.03(1).
- Section 14. Subsection (1) and paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 1006.40, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 1006.40 Use of instructional materials allocation; instructional materials, library books, and reference books; repair of books.--
- (1) (a) On or before July 1 each year, the commissioner shall certify to each district school superintendent the estimated allocation of state funds for instructional materials, computed under pursuant to the provisions of s. 1011.67 for the ensuing fiscal year. All instructional materials used must align to the Sunshine State Standards. Instructional materials used to teach reading shall, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate nonfictional content from other core subjects.
- (b) A school district may not expend funds from the instructional materials allocation for Florida Comprehensive

 Assessment Test (FCAT) practice tests, sample test items, or practice workbooks or for any other materials dedicated to test-taking exercises or strategies designed exclusively for FCAT preparation or that include any reference to the "Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test" or "FCAT." The department shall notify publishers and manufacturers of this prohibition by including notice of this paragraph in the instructional

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materials specifications for each adoption. A school district's violation of this paragraph is subject to the withholding of funds from the instructional materials allocation under s.

1001.42(7).

(3)

(b) Up to 50 percent of the annual allocation may be used for the purchase of instructional materials, including library and reference books and nonprint materials, not included on the state-adopted list and for the repair and renovation of textbooks and library books. Notwithstanding subsection (4), up to 10 percent of the funds used for the purchase of instructional materials not on the state-adopted list may be used to purchase technology devices with digital content or online content if the publisher or manufacturer clearly demonstrates that the content is aligned to the Sunshine State Standards.

Section 15. Section 1008.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.22 Student assessment program for public schools.--

- (1) PURPOSE.--The primary purposes of the student assessment program are to provide information needed to improve the public schools by enhancing the learning gains of all students and to inform parents of the educational progress of their public school children. The program must be designed to:
- (a) Assess the annual learning gains of each student toward achieving the Sunshine State Standards appropriate for the student's grade level.
 - (b) Provide data for making decisions regarding school
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accountability and recognition.

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- (c) Identify the educational strengths and needs of students and the readiness of students to be promoted to the next grade level or to graduate from high school with a standard or special high school diploma.
- (d) Assess how well educational goals and <u>curricular</u> performance standards are met at the school, district, and state levels.
- (e) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and development of educational programs and policies.
- (f) Provide information on the performance of Florida students compared with that of other students across the United States.
- (2) NATIONAL EDUCATION COMPARISONS. -- It is Florida's intent to participate in the measurement of national educational goals. The Commissioner of Education shall direct Florida school districts to participate in the administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or a similar national assessment program, both for the national sample and for any state-by-state comparison programs which may be initiated. The Such assessments must be conducted using the data collection procedures, the student surveys, the educator surveys, and other instruments included in the National Assessment of Educational Progress or similar program being administered in Florida. The results of these assessments shall be included in the annual report of the Commissioner of Education specified in this section. The administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress or similar program shall be in addition to

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and separate from the administration of the statewide assessment program.

- STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM. -- The commissioner shall (3) design and implement a statewide program of educational assessment that provides information for the improvement of the operation and management of the public schools, including schools operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs. The commissioner may enter into contracts for the continued administration of the assessment, testing, and evaluation programs authorized and funded by the Legislature. Contracts may be initiated in 1 fiscal year and continue into the next and may be paid from the appropriations of either or both fiscal years. The commissioner is authorized to negotiate for the sale or lease of tests, scoring protocols, test scoring services, and related materials developed pursuant to law. Pursuant to the statewide assessment program, the commissioner shall:
- Standards to the State Board of Education for adoption and periodic review and revision under s. 1003.41. a list that specifies student skills and competencies to which the goals for education specified in the state plan apply, including, but not limited to, reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The skills and competencies must include problem-solving and higher-order skills as appropriate and shall be known as the Sunshine State Standards as defined in s. 1000.21. The commissioner shall select such skills and competencies after receiving recommendations from educators, citizens, and members of the

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business community. The commissioner shall submit to the State
Board of Education revisions to the list of student skills and
competencies in order to maintain continuous progress toward
improvements in student proficiency.

- (b) Develop and implement a uniform system of indicators to describe the performance of public school students and the characteristics of the public school districts and the public schools. These indicators must include, without limitation, information gathered by the comprehensive management information system created pursuant to s. 1008.385 and student achievement information obtained pursuant to this section.
- Develop and implement a student achievement testing program known as the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) as part of the statewide assessment program to measure a student's content knowledge and skills in reading, writing, science, and mathematics, and, by the 2012-2013 school year, social studies. Other content areas may be included as directed by the commissioner. Comprehensive assessments The assessment of reading and mathematics shall be administered annually in grades 3 through 10. Comprehensive assessments The assessment of writing and science shall be administered at least once at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Comprehensive assessments of social studies shall be administered at least once at the middle school level. End-of-course assessments of social studies shall be administered at the high school level. End-of-course assessments of any other subject may be administered in addition to the comprehensive assessments required under this paragraph. An end-of-course assessment must

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be rigorous, standardized, and administered statewide. The content knowledge and skills assessed by comprehensive and end-of-course assessments must be aligned to the core curricular content established in the Sunshine State Standards. The commissioner must document the procedures used to ensure that the versions of the FCAT which are taken by students retaking the grade 10 FCAT are equally as challenging and difficult as the tests taken by students in grade 10 which contain performance tasks. The testing program must be designed as follows so that:

The tests measure student skills and competencies adopted by the State Board of Education as specified in paragraph (a). The tests must measure and report student proficiency levels of all students assessed in reading, writing, mathematics, and social studies. The commissioner shall provide for the tests to be developed or obtained, as appropriate, through contracts and project agreements with private vendors, public vendors, public agencies, postsecondary educational institutions, or school districts. An entity awarded a contract or entering into a project agreement, or a corporate affiliate or subsidiary of the entity, may not participate in the development or publication of practice tests, sample test items, or practice workbooks or of any other materials dedicated to test-taking exercises or strategies for the tests developed or obtained through the contract or project agreement, except as authorized in the contract or project agreement or otherwise authorized in writing by the commissioner. The commissioner shall obtain input with respect to the design and implementation

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of the testing program from <u>assessment experts</u>, state educators, assistive technology experts, and the public. <u>In addition</u>, the <u>commissioner shall provide for ongoing review of the FCAT by an independent test-measurement expert who provides analysis and evaluation of the test and testing practices.</u>

- 2. The testing program shall will include a combination of norm referenced and criterion-referenced tests and norm-referenced tests. The criterion-referenced tests shall include, to the extent determined by the commissioner, test items questions that require the student to produce information or perform tasks in such a way that the core content knowledge and skills and competencies he or she uses can be measured. The norm-referenced tests included in the statewide testing program may only be administered in grades 3, 7, and 9.
- 3. Each testing program, whether at the elementary, middle, or high school level, includes a test of Writing assessments shall require in which students are required to produce a writing sample writings that is are then scored using by appropriate and timely methods.
- 4. For each test, a score shall be is designated for each subject area tested, below which score a student's performance shall be is deemed inadequate. A The school district districts shall provide appropriate remedial instruction to students whose performance is who score below grade level these levels.
- 5. Except as provided in s. 1003.428(8)(b) or s. 1003.43(11)(b), students must earn a passing score on the grade 10 assessment test described in this paragraph or attain concordant scores as described in subsection (10) (9) in

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reading, writing, and mathematics to qualify for a standard high school diploma. The State Board of Education shall designate a passing score for each part of the grade 10 assessment test. In establishing passing scores, the state board shall consider any possible negative impact of the test on minority students. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that which specify the passing scores for the grade 10 FCAT. Any such rules that, which have the effect of raising the required passing scores, shall only apply to students taking the grade 10 FCAT for the first time after such rules are adopted by the State Board of Education.

Participation in the testing program shall be is mandatory for all students attending public school, including students served in Department of Juvenile Justice programs, except as otherwise prescribed by the commissioner. If a student does not participate in the statewide assessment, the district must notify the student's parent and provide the parent with information regarding the implications of such nonparticipation. A parent must provide signed consent for a student to receive classroom instructional accommodations that would not be available or permitted on the statewide assessments and must acknowledge in writing that he or she understands the implications of such instructional accommodations. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules, based upon recommendations of the commissioner, for the provision of test accommodations for students in exceptional education programs and for students who have limited English proficiency. Accommodations that negate the validity of a statewide assessment are not allowable in the

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administration of the FCAT. However, instructional accommodations are allowable in the classroom if included in a student's individual education plan. Students using instructional accommodations in the classroom that are not allowable as accommodations on the FCAT may have the FCAT requirement waived <u>under pursuant to the requirements of</u> s. 1003.428(8)(b) or s. 1003.43(11)(b).

- 7. A student seeking an adult high school diploma must meet the same testing requirements that a regular high school student must meet.
- District school boards must provide instruction to prepare students to demonstrate proficiency in the core curricular content established in the Sunshine State Standards adopted under s. 1003.41, including the core content knowledge and skills and competencies necessary for successful grade-tograde progression and high school graduation. If a student is provided with instructional accommodations in the classroom that are not allowable as accommodations in the statewide assessment program, as described in the test manuals, the district must inform the parent in writing and must provide the parent with information regarding the impact on the student's ability to meet expected proficiency levels in reading, writing, science, mathematics, and social studies math. The commissioner shall conduct studies as necessary to verify that the required core curricular content is skills and competencies are part of the district instructional programs.
- 9. District school boards must provide opportunities for students to demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an

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alternative standardized assessment approved by the State Board of Education following enrollment in summer academies.

- 10. The Department of Education must develop, or select, and implement a common battery of assessment tools that <u>are will</u> be used in all juvenile justice programs in the state. These tools must accurately measure the <u>core curricular content skills</u> and competencies established in the Sunshine State Standards.
- 11. For students seeking a special diploma <u>under pursuant</u> to s. 1003.438, the Department of Education must develop, or select, and implement an alternate assessment tool that accurately measures the <u>core curricular content</u> skills and competencies established in the Sunshine State Standards for students with disabilities under s. 1003.438.
- 12. The Commissioner of Education shall establish schedules for the administration of statewide assessments and the reporting of student test results. The commissioner shall, by August 1 of each year, notify each school district in writing and publish on the department's Internet website the testing and reporting schedules for, at a minimum, the school year following the upcoming school year. The testing and reporting schedules shall require that:
- a. There be the latest possible administration of statewide assessments and the earliest possible reporting to the school districts of student test results that are feasible within available technology and specific appropriations.
- b. Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, a comprehensive statewide assessment of writing not be administered earlier than the week of March 1 and a

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comprehensive statewide assessment of any other subject not be administered earlier than the week of April 15.

- <u>c.</u> A statewide end-of-course assessment be administered within the last 2 weeks of the course.
- d. Student test results of statewide assessments be reported by the week of the first Monday in June following administration of the assessments.

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The commissioner may, based on collaboration and input from school districts, design and implement student testing programs, for any grade level and subject area, necessary to effectively monitor educational achievement in the state, including the measurement of educational achievement of the Sunshine State Standards for students with disabilities. Development and refinement of assessments shall include universal design principles and accessibility standards that will prevent any unintended obstacles for students with disabilities while ensuring the validity and reliability of the test. These principles should be applicable to all technology platforms and assistive devices available for the assessments. The field testing process and psychometric analyses for the statewide assessment program must include an appropriate percentage of students with disabilities and an evaluation or determination of the effect of test items on such students.

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(d) Conduct ongoing research to develop improved methods of assessing student performance, including, without limitation, the use of technology to administer tests, score, or report the results of, the use of electronic transfer of data, the

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development of work-product assessments, and the development of process assessments.

- (e) Conduct ongoing research and analysis of student achievement data, including, without limitation, monitoring trends in student achievement by grade level and overall student achievement, identifying school programs that are successful, and analyzing correlates of school achievement.
- (f) Provide technical assistance to school districts in the implementation of state and district testing programs and the use of the data produced pursuant to such programs.
- (g) Study the cost and student achievement impact of secondary end-of-course assessments, including web-based and performance formats, and report to the Legislature prior to implementation.
- ACTIVITIES.--Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, a district school board shall prohibit each public school from suspending a regular program of curricula for purposes of administering practice tests or engaging in other test-preparation activities for a statewide assessment except as otherwise determined necessary for the valid and reliable administration of the statewide assessment as set forth in rules adopted by the State Board of Education with specific reference to this subsection.
- (5)(4) DISTRICT TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each district school board shall periodically assess student performance and achievement within each school of the district. The assessment programs must be based on the core curricular content

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established in the Sunshine State Standards and any upon local goals and objectives that are compatible with the state plan for education and that supplement the core content knowledge and skills necessary for successful grade-to-grade progression and high school graduation and competencies adopted by the State Board of Education. All school districts must participate in the statewide assessment program designed to measure annual student learning and school performance. All district school boards shall report assessment results as required by the state management information system.

(6) (5) SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAMS.--Each public school shall participate in the statewide assessment program in accordance with the testing and reporting schedules published by the Commissioner of Education under subparagraph (3)(c)12.7 unless specifically exempted by state board rule based on serving a specialized population for which standardized testing is not appropriate. Student performance data shall be analyzed and reported to parents, the community, and the state. Student performance data shall be used in developing objectives of the school improvement plan, evaluation of instructional personnel, evaluation of administrative personnel, assignment of staff, allocation of resources, acquisition of instructional materials and technology, performance-based budgeting, and promotion and assignment of students into educational programs. The analysis of student performance data also must identify strengths and needs in the educational program and trends over time. The analysis must be used in conjunction with the budgetary planning processes developed pursuant to s. 1008.385 and the development

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of the programs of remediation.

(7) (6) REQUIRED ANALYSES.--The commissioner shall provide, at a minimum, for the following analyses of data produced by the student achievement testing program:

- (a) The statistical system for the annual assessments shall use measures of student learning, such as the FCAT, to determine teacher, school, and school district statistical distributions, which shall be determined using available data from the FCAT, and other data collection as deemed appropriate by the Department of Education, to measure the differences in student prior year achievement compared to the current year achievement for the purposes of accountability and recognition.
- (b) The statistical system shall provide the best estimates of teacher, school, and school district effects on student progress. The approach used by the department shall be approved by the commissioner before implementation.
- (c) The annual testing program shall be administered to provide for valid statewide comparisons of learning gains to be made for purposes of accountability and recognition. The commissioner shall establish a schedule for the administration of the statewide assessments. In establishing such schedule, the commissioner is charged with the duty to accomplish the latest possible administration of the statewide assessments and the earliest possible provision of the results to the school districts feasible within available technology and specific appropriation. District school boards shall not establish school calendars that jeopardize or limit the valid testing and comparison of student learning gains.

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(8) (7) LOCAL ASSESSMENTS.--Measurement of the learning gains of students in all subjects and grade levels other than subjects and grade levels required for the state student achievement testing program is the responsibility of the school districts.

- (9) (8) APPLICABILITY OF TESTING STANDARDS.--
- (a) If the Commissioner of Education revises a statewide assessment and the revisions require the State Board of Education to modify the assessment's proficiency levels or modify the passing scores required for a standard high school diploma, until the state board adopts the modifications by rule, the commissioner shall use calculations for scoring the assessment that adjust student scores on the revised assessment for statistical equivalence to student scores on the former assessment.
- (b) A student must attain meet the passing scores on a statewide assessment required testing requirements for a standard high school diploma graduation that were in effect at the time the student entered 9th grade 9 if, provided the student's enrollment was continuous.
- (c) If the commissioner revises a statewide assessment and the revisions require the state board to modify the passing scores required for a standard high school diploma, the commissioner shall discontinue administration of the former assessment upon the graduation, based on normal student progression, of students entering grade 9 in the school year following administration of the revised assessment. The state board shall adopt by rule passing scores for the revised

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assessment that are statistically equivalent to passing scores on the discontinued assessment for a student required under paragraph (b) to attain passing scores on the discontinued assessment.

- (10) (9) CONCORDANT SCORES FOR THE FCAT.--
- (a) The State Board of Education shall analyze the content and concordant data sets for widely used high school achievement tests, including, but not limited to, the PSAT, PLAN, SAT, ACT, and College Placement Test, to assess if concordant scores for FCAT scores can be determined for high school graduation, college placement, and scholarship awards. In cases where content alignment and concordant scores can be determined, the Commissioner of Education shall adopt those scores as meeting the graduation requirement in lieu of achieving the FCAT passing score and may adopt those scores as being sufficient to achieve additional purposes as determined by rule. Each time that test content or scoring procedures change are changed for the FCAT or for a high school achievement test for which a concordant score is determined one of the identified tests, new concordant scores must be determined.
- (b) In order to use a concordant subject area score pursuant to this subsection to satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school diploma as provided in s. 1003.429(6)(a), s. 1003.43(5)(a), or s. 1003.428, a student must take each subject area of the grade 10 FCAT a total of three times without earning a passing score. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to a new student who enters the Florida public school system in grade 12, who may either achieve

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a passing score on the FCAT or use an approved subject area concordant score to fulfill the graduation requirement.

- (c) The State Board of Education may define by rule the allowable uses, other than to satisfy the high school graduation requirement, for concordant scores as described in this subsection. Such uses may include, but need not be limited to, achieving appropriate standardized test scores required for the awarding of Florida Bright Futures Scholarships and college placement.
- (11) (10) REPORTS.--The Department of Education shall annually provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the following:
- (a) Longitudinal performance of students in mathematics and reading.
- (b) Longitudinal performance of students by grade level in mathematics and reading.
- (c) Longitudinal performance regarding efforts to close the achievement gap.
- (d) Longitudinal performance of students on the norm-referenced component of the FCAT.
- (e) Other student performance data based on national norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests, when available, and numbers of students who after 8th grade enroll in adult education rather than other secondary education.
- $\underline{\text{(12)}}$ (11) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt rules $\underline{\text{under}}$ pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of this section.

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Section 16. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (2), subsection (4), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.25 Public school student progression; remedial instruction; reporting requirements.--

- (1) INTENT.--It is the intent of the Legislature that each student's progression from one grade to another be determined, in part, upon proficiency in reading, writing, science, and mathematics, and, upon assessment under s. 1008.22, social studies; that district school board policies facilitate such proficiency; and that each student and his or her parent be informed of that student's academic progress.
- (2) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.--Each district school board shall establish a comprehensive program for student progression which must include:
- (b) Specific levels of performance in reading, writing, science, and mathematics, and, upon assessment under s. 1008.22, social studies for each grade level, including the levels of performance on statewide assessments as defined by the commissioner, below which a student must receive remediation, or be retained within an intensive program that is different from the previous year's program and that takes into account the student's learning style.
 - (4) ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION. --
- (a) Each student must participate in the statewide assessment tests required by s. 1008.22. Each student who does not meet specific levels of performance as determined by the district school board in reading, writing, science, and

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mathematics, and, upon assessment under s. 1008.22, social studies for each grade level, or who scores below Level 3 in reading or mathematics math, must be provided with additional diagnostic assessments to determine the nature of the student's difficulty, the areas of academic need, and strategies for appropriate intervention and instruction as described in paragraph (b).

- develop, in consultation with the student's parent, and must implement a progress monitoring plan. A progress monitoring plan is intended to provide the school district and the school flexibility in meeting the academic needs of the student and to reduce paperwork. A student who is not meeting the school district or state requirements for proficiency in reading and mathematics math shall be covered by one of the following plans to target instruction and identify ways to improve his or her academic achievement:
- 1. A federally required student plan such as an individual education plan;
- 2. A schoolwide system of progress monitoring for all students; or
 - 3. An individualized progress monitoring plan.

The plan chosen must be designed to assist the student or the school in meeting state and district expectations for proficiency. If the student has been identified as having a deficiency in reading, the K-12 comprehensive reading plan required by s. 1011.62(8) shall include instructional and

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support services to be provided to meet the desired levels of performance. District school boards may require low-performing students to attend remediation programs held before or after regular school hours or during the summer if transportation is provided.

- (c) Upon subsequent evaluation, if the documented deficiency has not been remediated, the student may be retained. Each student who does not meet the minimum performance expectations defined by the Commissioner of Education for the statewide assessment tests in reading, writing, science, and mathematics, and, upon assessment under s. 1008.22, social studies must continue to be provided with remedial or supplemental instruction until the expectations are met or the student graduates from high school or is not subject to compulsory school attendance.
 - (8) ANNUAL REPORT. --
- (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(b), each district school board must annually report to the parent of each student the progress of the student toward achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in reading, writing, science, and mathematics, and, upon assessment under s. 1008.22, social studies. The district school board must report to the parent the student's results on each statewide assessment test. The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and state assessments, and other relevant information. Progress reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format adopted by the district school board.

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Section 17. Subsection (3) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.--

- (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES. --
- (a) Schools receiving a school grade.--Each school that has students who are tested and included in the school grading system, except an alternative school that receives a school improvement rating pursuant to s. 1008.341, shall receive a school grade, except as follows:
- 1. A school shall not receive a school grade if the number of its students tested and included in the school grading system is less than the minimum sample size necessary, based on accepted professional practice, for statistical reliability and prevention of the unlawful release of personally identifiable student data under s. 1002.22 or 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g.; however,
- $\underline{2}$. An alternative school may choose to receive a school grade under this section \underline{or} in lieu of a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341.
- 3. Additionally, A school that serves any combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 that which does not receive a school grade because its students are not tested and included in the school grading system shall receive the school grade designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school identified by the Department of Education and verified by the school district. A school feeder pattern exists if at least 60 percent of the students in the school serving a combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 are scheduled to be assigned to the

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graded school. School grades itemized in subsection (2) shall be
based on the following:

- (b) (a) Criteria.--A school's grade shall be based on a combination of:
- 1. Student achievement scores, including achievement scores for students seeking a special diploma.
- 2. Student learning gains as measured by annual FCAT assessments in grades 3 through 10; learning gains for students seeking a special diploma, as measured by an alternate assessment tool, shall be included not later than the 2009-2010 school year.
- 3. Improvement of the lowest 25th percentile of students in the school in reading, <u>mathematics</u> <u>math</u>, or writing on the FCAT, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.
- (c) (b) Student assessment data.--Student assessment data used in determining school grades shall include:
- 1. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT.
- 2. The aggregate scores of all eligible students enrolled in the school who have been assessed on the FCAT, including Florida Writes, and who have scored at or in the lowest 25th percentile of students in the school in reading, math, or writing, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.
- 3. Effective with the 2005-2006 school year, the achievement scores and learning gains of eligible students attending alternative schools that provide dropout prevention

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and academic intervention services pursuant to s. 1003.53. The term "eligible students" in this subparagraph does not include students attending an alternative school who are subject to district school board policies for expulsion for repeated or serious offenses, who are in dropout retrieval programs serving students who have officially been designated as dropouts, or who are in programs operated or contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice. The student performance data for eligible students identified in this subparagraph shall be included in the calculation of the home school's grade. As used in For purposes of this section and s. 1008.341, the term "home school" means the school to which the student would be assigned if the student were not was attending when assigned to an alternative school. If an alternative school chooses to be graded under pursuant to this section, student performance data for eligible students identified in this subparagraph shall not be included in the home school's grade but shall be included only in the calculation of the alternative school's grade. School districts shall must require collaboration between the home school and the alternative school in order to promote student success. This collaboration must include an annual discussion between the principal of the alternative school and the principal of each student's home school concerning the most appropriate school assignment for the student.

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The State Board of Education shall adopt appropriate criteria for each school grade. The criteria must also give added weight to student achievement in reading. Schools designated with a

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grade of "C," making satisfactory progress, shall be required to demonstrate that adequate progress has been made by students in the school who are in the lowest 25th percentile in reading, math, or writing on the FCAT, including Florida Writes, unless these students are exhibiting satisfactory performance.

Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 1008.341, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1008.341 School improvement rating for alternative schools.--

- schools that provides provide dropout prevention and academic intervention services under pursuant to s. 1003.53 shall receive a school improvement rating under pursuant to this section.

 However, an alternative school shall not receive a school improvement rating if the number of its students for whom student performance data is available for the current year and previous year is less than the minimum sample size necessary, based on accepted professional practice, for statistical reliability and prevention of the unlawful release of personally identifiable student data under s. 1002.22 or 20 U.S.C. s.

 1232g. The school improvement rating shall identify an alternative school schools as having one of the following ratings defined according to rules of the State Board of Education:
- (a) "Improving" means <u>a school</u> schools with students making more academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.

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(b) "Maintaining" means <u>a school</u> schools with students making progress equivalent to the progress made when the students were served in their home schools.

- (c) "Declining" means $\underline{a\ school}\ schools$ with students making less academic progress than when the students were served in their home schools.
- The school improvement rating shall be based on a comparison of student performance data for the current year and previous year. Schools that improve at least one level or maintain an "improving" rating <u>under pursuant to</u> this section are eligible for school recognition awards under pursuant to s. 1008.36.
- Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section 1189 1008.345, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1008.345 Implementation of state system of school improvement and education accountability.--
 - (8) As a part of the system of educational accountability, the Department of Education shall:
 - (a) Develop minimum performance standards for various grades and subject areas, as required in ss. 1001.03, 1008.22, and 1008.34.
- 1197 Section 20. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

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