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TO: All School Principals

FROM: Saemone Hollingsworth
Chief Academic Officer 

VIA: Dr. Angela R. Fulton
Deputy Superintendent, Teaching & Learning

SUBJECT: **MEETING ASSESSMENT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIORS: ACT-NON-COLLEGE REPORTABLE (NCR)**

Introduction

According to Section 1003.4282 of the Florida Statutes, students must meet specific academic requirements to earn a standard high school diploma in Florida.

These requirements include:

- Completing required courses
- Earning a minimum number of credits
- Maintaining a required grade point average (GPA)
- Passing specific statewide assessments

The required statewide assessments include:

- Grade 10 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)/English Language Arts (ELA) Reading assessment
- Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessment.

If students struggle to pass these assessments, they may use concordant or comparative scores to meet graduation requirements. Rule 6A-1.09422 defines "concordant scores" for the ELA graduation requirement and "comparative scores" for the Algebra 1 EOC requirement. For simplicity, this report uses the term "concordant scores" to refer to both graduation requirements.

Students can meet the **reading graduation requirement** through one of the assessments below:

- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
- American College Test (ACT)
- Classic Learning Test (CLT)

To achieve a **concordant score for reading**, students must attain one requirement below:

- Average score of at least 17.5 across the English and Reading sections on the ACT
- A score of 480 on the SAT Reading section
- A score of 36 on the combined Verbal Reasoning and Grammar/Writing sections of the CLT

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Students can meet the **math graduation requirement** through one of the below requirements:

- Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)
- SAT
- ACT
- CLT
- Geometry EOC exam

A **concordant score for math** is defined as one of the requirements below:

- Minimum score of 16 on the ACT Math section
- 420 on the SAT Math section, 430 on the PSAT/NMSQT Math section
- 11 on the CLT Quantitative Reasoning section
- Level 3 on the Geometry EOC exam

Students may take a "non-college reportable" (NCR) version of the SAT or ACT, where the scores cannot be used for college admission but are valid for meeting graduation testing requirements.

Students are given many opportunities to be able to meet concordant scores for their graduation requirements. In this report, we will discuss the ACT-NCR which is the non-college reportable version of the ACT.

Unlike the traditional ACT, the ACT-NCR has:

- Increased time limit
- Students who need the English graduation requirement have 160 minutes (2 hrs. 40 mins.)
- Students who need the Math graduation requirement have 120 minutes (2 hrs.)
- Students who need both graduation requirements have 280 minutes (4 hrs. 30 mins.)

This allows participants ample time to answer questions across various subjects to test their true knowledge and understanding. The ACT-NCR was administered in the 2023-2024 school year at three separate times. This report will include students who took the assessment in the fall, spring, and summer administrations.

Data

At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, there were:

- 7,953 12th graders who needed to achieve reading or math concordance to meet graduation requirements
- 5,349 tests were administered
- 3,667 12th graders in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) took the ACT-NCR exam

This indicates that some students took multiple attempts throughout the school year. For these students, the purpose of taking the exam was to achieve concordant scores for the missing testing requirements.

The sample consisted of:

- 1,895 (52%) male students and 1,772 (48%) female students
- 54% Black, 35% Hispanic, 8% White, and 3% Other
- 19% of the students were English Language Learners (ELL) in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program
- 7% had an identified disability (SWD)

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Administration

The ACT-NCR was administered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer. This allows students multiple opportunities to take the test and meet graduation concordance. As stated above, there were 3,667 12th graders who took the ACT-NCR in the 2023-2024 school year and 5,349 tests were administered.

Table 1 below displays the number of tests administered across administration opportunities.

Table 1. *Description of Sample of Duplicated ACT-NCR Test Takers 2023-2024*

Testing Administration	Number of Test Takers
Fall	3,273
Spring	1,728
Summer	348
TOTAL	5,349

Note. These numbers are duplicated, which means there may be students taking the test multiple times to reach graduation concordance.

Meeting Concordance

- 3,048 (83%) needed to meet the reading graduation requirement
- 2,220 (60%) needed to meet the math graduation requirement
- 1,194 (32%) achieved reading concordance
- 770 (21%) achieved math concordance

Table 2 displays descriptive information for students in the sample who met and did not meet concordance. In this table, the number of 12th graders is the amount who needed concordance, and the percentages are of those students who met or did not meet concordance.

Table 2. *Description of Sample by ACT-NCR Results 2023-2024*

Testing Requirement Needed	Number of 12 th graders	Met Concordance		Did Not Meet Concordance	
		n	%	n	%
Reading	3,048	1,194	39	1,854	61
Math	2,220	770	35	1,450	65

Note. These numbers are duplicated, which means there may be students who need both reading and math concordance.

Summary

For this group of students, taking the ACT-NCR may have been their last opportunity to meet the assessment graduation requirements. Historically, ELL and SWD students have often sought alternative concordance opportunities. The ACT-NCR provided an opportunity for some of these students as well.

- Among the 691 ELL students, 193 (28%) met math graduation requirements
- 201 (29%) met reading graduation requirements
- 255 SWD students, 28 (11%) met math requirements
- 36 (14%) met reading requirements

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In addition to satisfying assessment graduation requirements, students must meet other criteria, such as GPA and credit hours.

- 1,711 students (46%) were able to graduate high school solely on meeting concordant scores on the ACT-NCR
- 1,194 students (70%) who met reading concordance
- 770 students (45%) who met math concordance

This memo and appendices may also be accessed via the Student Assessment and Research website at <https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13537>.

Please direct any questions or comments concerning this memo to **Richard Baum, Director, Educational Assessment, Analysis & Research Department, at 754-321-2500.**

HH/ARF/SH/FC/RGB/MMJ/SMD:rs

c: School Board Members
Cabinet
Teaching & Learning Directors