

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

1960 LANDINGS BOULEVARD

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34231-3331

TELEPHONE (941) 927-9000 • FAX (941) 927-4021

September 30, 2011

Dear Parents:

In the spring of 2010, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 4 which has changed the credit and assessment requirements of high school students. The following information will affect the graduation and assessment requirements for current 9th grade and 10th grade students this school year. The updated requirements are identified below.

Graduation Credit Requirements for a Traditional 4 – Year High School Program:

SUBJECT	GRADE 9 CREDITS REQUIRED*	GRADE 10 CREDITS REQUIRED
Mathematics	4 – Must include Algebra and Geometry	4 – Must include Algebra or higher
English	4	4
Science	3 – Two must have labs	3 – Two must have labs
Social Studies	3	3
Performing/Fine Arts	1	1
PE(Hope) and Health	1	1
Electives	12 – Suncoast Polytechnical 10 – Riverview, Sarasota, Booker, Venice, North Port, Pine View 8 – Oak Park	12 – Suncoast Polytechnical 10 - Riverview, Sarasota, Booker, Venice, North Port, Pine View 8 – Oak Park

- Must earn at least one credit through online learning.

Assessment Requirements:

Reading:

- 9th and 10th Grade students will participate in the FCAT-2.0 Reading Assessment which reflects revised state standards. This test is the graduation requirement for 10th graders. If a 10th grade student does not pass the Reading FCAT, the students will continue to have several options for meeting this high school graduation requirement, including retake administrations, and the use of concordant scores.

Mathematics:

- All students enrolled in Algebra or Algebra Honors will take the State End of Course Assessments in the Spring of 2012. All 9th grade students must pass the end of course assessment to earn credit in Algebra.
- All students enrolled in Geometry or Biology will take the State End of Course Assessments in the spring of 2012. Test Results will be 30 percent of the students' grade for students entering 9th grade in the Fall, 2011.
- 12th grade students who did not pass the 10th grade FCAT will participate in the online retake version of FCAT-1 Mathematics. This version of the test does not include short-response or extended-response items, only multiple-choice and gridded-response items. If these students do not pass the Mathematics FCAT, the students will continue to have several options for meeting this high school graduation requirement, including retake administrations, and the use of concordant scores.

Sincerely,

Steve Cantees, Executive Director, High Schools

Cc: Lori White, Superintendent

Denise Cantalupo, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment