



TO: PCSSD Parents

FROM: *RM* Rob McGill, Acting Superintendent

DATE: November 3, 2009

RE: Students passing benchmark assessments in order to advance/graduate

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This letter is to inform all parents that Act 1307 of 2009 amended requirements for public school end-of-course assessments. The act mandates students score proficient on the required assessments, or benchmark tests, in order to promote to the next grade and/or receive credit for the course, and beginning this year, students must pass the Algebra I assessment in order to graduate from high school.

The act states that beginning in the 2009-2010 school year and beyond, all students must pass the Algebra I assessment in order to graduate from high school. Students take the test after they have completed the course and will have multiple opportunities to re-take it. Additionally, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, all students must also pass the English II assessment in order to graduate from high school.

Students taking the General End-of-Course (Biology and Geometry) exams must pass those assessments or participate in remediation through an academic improvement plan in order to receive credit on their transcripts. Students will not have to retake these exams in order to graduate from high school.

Act 1307 also states, "A student in grades three through eight (3-8) identified as not passing a benchmark assessment and who fails to participate in the subsequent academic improvement plan shall be retained and shall not be promoted to the next appropriate grade until:

- (A) The student is deemed to have participated in an academic improvement plan; or
- (B) The student passes the benchmark assessment for the current grade level in which the student is retained.

Academic improvement plans are developed by the classroom teacher and instructional facilitators. It is important that parents and students participate in the development of the academic improvement plan. If you have not done so already, please take the opportunity to schedule an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss this plan if it is needed.

PCSSD is committed to informing parents about the changes that affect our students and working to ensure every child is successful in school. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions or concerns about Act 1307 or any other issue.