



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Matthew J. Welker, Ed.D.
Principal

Ms. Enid Weisman
Regional Center II Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

After each FCAT administration, the Florida Department of Education evaluates assessment policies and procedures and implements changes when necessary. Parent awareness and support is a crucial part of the assessment process, and we would like to inform you of an important change that will be in effect during future FCAT administrations beginning in the 2007-08 school year.

Students have not historically been permitted to have electronic devices in their possession during testing. However, there has previously been some flexibility regarding the policy, which stated that violations involving **may** result in test invalidation. Due to concerns based on recent security violations involving camera phones, the policy has been revised to state that violation **will** result in test invalidation. If your child is found with an electronic device that reproduces, transmits, calculates, or records (e.g., a cell phone, camera, or pager) in his or her pocket, at his or her desk, or within his or her reach during testing, the test **will** be invalidated.

It is not our intention to restrict student privileges or alter existing district policies but to work within the framework of existing laws to maintain the security of the FCAT. When addressing the issue of cell phones, it should be noted that while Section 1006.07(2), Florida Statutes, states that "a student may possess wireless communication devices while on school property or at school functions." It also states that "the regulation of when and how such devices may be used during such times may still be determined by the district school board."

As always, it is our goal to keep you well informed as to how you can best support your students to maximize their performance on the FCAT. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school's guidance office.

Thank you for your support,

Matthew J. Welker

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