



January 29, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

When it comes to statewide assessments, we at Seminole County Public Schools, and the Department of Education (DOE), acknowledge that parent awareness and support is a crucial part of the assessment process. As such, we would like to inform you of an important assessment guideline which could impact your student.

Students have not historically been permitted to have electronic devices in their possession during testing. Due to concerns based on actual security violations involving camera phones, the policy has been set that violation of this guideline **will** result in test invalidation. This means that if your child is found with an electronic device that reproduces, transmits, calculates, or records (e.g., cell phone, camera, ipod, etc.) in his or her pocket, at his or her desk, or within his or her reach during testing, their test **will** be invalidated, *whether the student uses the device or not.*

It is not the DOE's 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 electronic devices, 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.

Sincerely,

*Colleen L. Risner*

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