

**Call with District Directors of Curriculum
February 14, 2018**

New FDOE team members were introduced:

Dr. Paul Burns, Deputy Chancellor of Educator Quality
Andrew Weatherill, Secondary School Counseling Consultant

1. Puerto Rico Update

Thank you for helping transition students. To date there are 11,661 students from Puerto Rico that transferred to Florida schools and 937 from the Virgin Islands. Florida is a leader in working with these students and we have been in contact with several other states who are looking to emulate the same provisions that we have agreed upon in Florida in their home states. We are way ahead.

We appreciate everyone working with us on ensuring Puerto Rican student success. If there are 1,000 students that need help with a graduation plan, there are 1,000 different scenarios that we are working through and we appreciate everyone working these circumstances on a case by case basis. As a reminder, we have a website where we are posting all current documents, FAQs, executive orders and pertinent information (www.fldoe.org/hurricaneinfo) and we will be posting the summary of the notes from today's call on there as well.

Common questions that we would like to provide additional guidance on include:

- Will there be any exemptions for GPAs, standardized assessments, or flexibilities for current juniors and seniors? No. Sections 1003.4282 and 1002.3105, Florida Statutes, are very clear about the Florida high school diploma graduation requirements. We do not have authority to waive these statutes. We recognize that English is not the primary language spoken in Puerto Rico and meeting the Florida graduation requirements may not be a valid option for current juniors and seniors. This is why for current juniors and seniors we were able to create the option to meet the Puerto Rican graduation requirements and will be able to graduate with Puerto Rican high school diploma. <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements/index.shtml>
- Many students displaced student from Puerto Rico attended private schools. What options are available for students who attended these school before transferring to Florida? Graduating under the standard Florida high school diploma would be the first option. If a student is not able to meet this requirement, a displaced junior or senior can be graduated under the Puerto Rico government school graduation option. Each private school in Puerto Rico has different graduation requirements and many of these schools have not opened yet. At this time, getting an articulation with the private schools is not an option and Puerto Rico is allowing these students to graduate under their government diploma requirements.
- What is the procedure for a student choosing the option of earning a high school diploma from Puerto Rico? For displaced Puerto Rican juniors and seniors, the withdrawal code of WPR will be activated for students who are exiting Florida schools under the Puerto Rico high school graduation diploma option. We will be sending guidance to MIS directors on the process for obtaining Puerto Rican students' education records/transcript. We will limit the initial transcript process to 11th and 12th grade students. This will be followed by requests for students in grade K-8. We will request fields needed to facilitate data matching. Guidance is also forthcoming about a withdrawal code for end-of-year status in survey 5 at the end of July.

- How will students get their Puerto Rico high school diploma conferred? We are working with Puerto Rico on finalizing this process.
- How are credits awarded for students without transcripts who are proving competency in their current courses? Please refer to the K12 FAQ document section VII on educational placement that clarifies the alternative validation procedure at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5673/urlt/HurricaneMariaQA10617.pdf>.
- Since high school in Puerto Rico is 10th-12th grade, will Puerto Rico accept high school credit for courses taken in 9th grade, which is a middle school in Puerto Rico? For the current cohort of displaced juniors and seniors, credits earned in the 9th grade in Puerto Rico qualify for high school graduation requirements.
- Students coming from Puerto Rico who were on a career and technical education (CTE) track were exempt from core courses. How do districts evaluate these transcripts? This will depend on the CTE track program that the student was in. We will have to work with Puerto Rico on a case-by-case basis to develop a graduation plan for these students.
- The memo issued on December 29th outlined graduation requirements for displaced Puerto Rican juniors and seniors choosing to graduate with a Puerto Rico high school diploma at <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8138/DPS-2017-172.pdf>. Here are answers to some follow-up questions:
 - When opting for a diploma from Puerto Rico, students are required to complete 20 hours of occupational experience and 40 hours of community service. What activities fulfill this requirement and how are these activities documented? Occupational experience can be fulfilled by participating in mentorship, internships, work experience or a combination thereof. Community service hours can be defined in local school board policies that are similarly defined when qualifying for Bright Futures. Puerto Rico will accept the same experiences. These hours can be documented on a locally developed form to verify that these participation hours have been met.
 - If students are pursuing a standard Florida high school diploma and are eligible for Bright Futures, will community service hours or occupation hours earned in Puerto Rico satisfy Bright Futures requirements? Pursuant to section 1009.53, Florida Statutes, the local school board determines the program of volunteer service to meet this requirement. If experiences gained in Puerto Rico meet local definitions and requirements, those experiences can be used toward Bright Futures.
 - One half-credit in a course titled 'Responsible Parenting' is required for a Puerto Rico high school diploma. What are the acceptable electives students can take to meet this requirement? As stated in the December 29th memo, this half-credit requirement can be met with Health Education or any elective course that is closely aligned.
 - One-half credit in a course titled 'Technology, Family Science, Agriculture, or some similar elective' is required for a Puerto Rico high school diploma. What are acceptable electives that students can take to satisfy this requirement? As stated in the December 29th memo, this half-credit requirement can be met with any elective credit that is closely aligned.

2. Assessment Update

Spring Testing

Spring Testing Dates

In light of school and district closures as a result of Hurricane Irma, the department released revised spring testing schedules on December 8th at <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7972/dps-2017-84a.pdf>.

Spring Testing Modes and Reporting

As a reminder, all grades and subjects will be tested in the same mode in spring 2018 as they were in spring 2017. This includes Grade 3 ELA remaining on paper, as well as Grades 4-7 FSA ELA Writing. All other ELA and Mathematics grades will be administered via computer for this spring, as will all EOCs. Grades 5 & 8 Science will continue to be administered on paper.

Our goal is to report within timeframes as close as possible to those of last year, taking into consideration the spring schedule extensions necessitated by the 2017 hurricane season.

HB 7069 Independent Study

As required by HB 7069 in 2017, the Commissioner contracted for an independent study to determine whether the SAT and/or ACT may be administered in lieu of the Grade 10 ELA and Algebra 1 EOC assessments, consistent with ESSA provisions for locally-selected, nationally-recognized high school assessments.

The findings of the study were provided to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House and the State Board of Education the first week of January.

- The full report is available on the FDOE website at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5663/urlt/FeasibilityACTSATFSA.pdf>.
- To request specific appendices for the report, please email Assessment@fldoe.org.

Concordant and Comparative Scores

Existing concordant and comparative scores may be used until new scores are adopted by the State Board of Education and put into effect. As such, the October 1, 2017, implementation date presented during the June 12, 2017, workshop was not put into effect.

We are tentatively planning to conduct a workshop on the proposed concordant and comparative scores on Tuesday, March 20th. Once the official Notice of Rulemaking has been published, we will forward this information to all of our state contact lists so that everyone has details regarding the exact time and date of the workshop. The Notice will include instructions on how to register for the webinar. The webinar will be recorded, and public feedback on the recommendations will be accepted and considered from the time of the workshop until the May State Board meeting.

It is important to once again remind everyone that the new concordant and comparative scores will **NOT** be implemented this school year. The State Board Rule language that will be proposed during the workshop will include an effective date.

3. Definition of Qualified Instructional Personnel (Rule 6A-1.0503, F.A.C.)

On January 23, 2018, the Bureau of Educator Certification hosted a Rule Development Workshop on the Definition of Qualified Instructional Personnel (Rule 6A-1.0503, F.A.C.). Materials from the rule development workshop and the draft rule language are available under the “Workshops for Educator Certification” heading on the [Educator Certification Rule Development page](#) accessed through the Educator Certification site at www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification. The rule is tentatively scheduled to be heard at the March 2018 State Board of Education Meeting. Proposed language reorganizes and clarifies the rule. It distinguishes in-field conditions authorized in law and in existing rule and includes them all in the rule. It also includes stipulations for out-of-field conditions. All of the conditions now included in the same rule.

4. Instructional Materials – Science Adoption

The state instructional materials science review is still underway and we would like to call for more reviewers, specifically grades 6-8 in Comprehensive Science 1-3. The more qualified reviewers we have reviewing materials, the quicker the process may move along in order to get a finalized state-adopted list to the districts in a timely manner. For more information, contact Cathy.Seeds@fldoe.org.

5. March is nationally recognized as *Music in Our Schools Month, Theatre in Our Schools Month, Dance in Our Schools Month* and *Youth Art Month*

FDOE values the arts and acknowledges the impact they have on student development and academic achievement. The arts not only offer students an opportunity for self-expression and personal growth, but interdisciplinary activities involving the arts can also improve comprehension and challenge students to approach learning in new ways. We encourage all Florida schools to use this month as an opportunity to celebrate the arts and provide students with meaningful, authentic arts experiences. For more information, contact Jennifer.Infinger@fldoe.org.

5. Sexual Health Education 101 Online 10-Hour Course for Teachers and School Nurses

FDOE’s University of South Florida School-based HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Prevention project is offering an online professional development at no cost to participants. This 10-hour, self-paced course is designed to enhance participant knowledge and provide resources that can be used in the classroom. Registration opened on Friday, February 9, 2018. Access course and registration information at <http://fldoe.org/schools/safe-healthy-schools/healthy-schools/sexual-edu/hiv-std-prevention-professional-dev-up.stml>.

6. Florida Healthy School District Self-Assessment Open

The Florida Healthy School District Self-Assessment opened on January 27, 2018, and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents sent out an announcement to all superintendents. The opportunity to complete the self-assessment and apply for the 2018-2020 designation will remain open until April 16, 2018.

Currently, the Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, in cooperation with Florida Association of District School Superintendents, Florida Action for Healthy Kids and Florida Healthy Kids Corporation recognizes 45 Florida Healthy School Districts. There are 14 districts recognized at the gold level, 17 at the silver level and 14 at the bronze level.

The assessment and instructions are available at <http://safehealthyschoolsfl.org/Home.aspx>. We encourage you to assemble a team to complete the self-assessment, and if eligible, apply for recognition.

7. Black History Month Student and Educator Contests

- I want to urge each of you to spread the word about a tremendous, potentially life-altering opportunity for students.
- In January, Governor and First Lady Scott announced the 2018 Black History Month student and educator contests.
- This year's theme is "A Celebration of Innovative African-American Leaders," and **three student in grades 4-12 will earn a Four-Year Florida College Plan scholarship** from the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.
- In addition to the essay contest winners, three K-3 students will receive a cash prize for their participation in the art contest and three K-12 educators will be honored with the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.
- The deadline was extended to March 2 this year to allow educators to incorporate the contests into their lesson plans during the month of February, when Black History Month is celebrated.
- If you haven't already done so, I hope you will promote them in your school and district, as well as with any other student-focused organizations with which you are associated.
- You can learn more about these contests by visiting www.floridablackhistory.com.