

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Chairman*

Members

DR. AKSHAY DESAI

MARK KAPLAN

ROBERTO MARTÍNEZ

JOHN R. PADGET

KATHLEEN SHANAHAN

SUSAN STORY

Dr. Eric J. Smith
Commissioner of Education

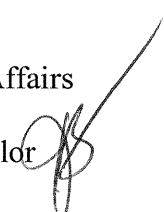
Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor
Division of Florida Colleges



August 5, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council on Instructional Affairs and Council of Student Affairs

FROM: Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor/Acting Chancellor 

SUBJECT: Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) Transition Plan

On July 2nd, I indicated that I would be requesting a Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) transition plan for Fall 2010 to Spring 2011. Please submit your transition plan using the attached template. The deadline for submission has been extended to **Wednesday, September 8, 2010** due to the timing of this official request. The purpose of this request for transition plans is twofold: 1) to ensure each college has a comprehensive plan for implementing the PERT during the 2010-2011 academic year, and 2) to determine if there are common issues or constraints that we may be able to alleviate through working with McCann Associates or by addressing in policy. Your planning timeline will provide us with an overview of statewide transition to PERT that will allow for accurate data collection, more efficient and coordinated technical assistance, and a "roadmap" to help circumvent logistics issues/problems.

I have received questions about the timing for implementation and whether the Division will set a firm transition date. At this time, the expectation is that all colleges implement PERT during the 2010-2011 academic year with administration authorized to begin after September 15, 2010. I anticipate some colleges will be ready to begin their transition in the early fall while others may need additional time to administer the bulk of their pre-purchased Accuplacer units. I want to provide you with enough flexibility to serve your college's individual circumstances; however, I imagine you will have a vested interest in transitioning to the PERT due to the rising cost of Accuplacer to \$1.70 unit, compared to \$.94 per unit for PERT.



Council on Instructional Affairs
Council of Student Affairs
Page Two
August 5, 2010

With this memo, you're receiving a "FAQ" sheet, which will become a dynamic Technical Assistance Manual to help guide you through the change process. You'll note that it includes statewide interim cut scores. The scores have been established using psychometric analysis of pilot test results that align with current CPT placement distributions. Please continue to forward any implementation/policy questions you might have to Julie Alexander at julie.alexander@fldoe.org or John Hughes at john.hughes@fldoe.org.

JB/jac

Attachments



**Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) Transition Plan
TEMPLATE**

COLLEGE NAME:	
CONTACT NAME:	
CONTACT TITLE:	
CONTACT TELEPHONE:	
CONTACT E-MAIL:	

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Provide a comprehensive timeline that includes, at a minimum, the following dates:

- *Staff training*
 - *Testing staff*
 - *Advisors*
 - *Faculty*
- *Customization of PERT look and reporting content*
- *Anticipated placement test implementation (“first-use”)*
NOTE: Provide details if your college is phasing-in the PERT.
- *Anticipated diagnostic test implementation*
- *Website changes to include PERT*

TRANSITION DETAILS

Narrative on the transition from College Board Accuplacer (computer-adaptive and paper/pencil) to the PERT, including the number of Accuplacer units currently on-hand
NOTE: If a phased-in approach is anticipated, please provide details as to the criteria used for continued Accuplacer administrations. For example, the Accuplacer is an approved ability-to-benefit test for federal financial aid eligibility; therefore, a college may continue using Accuplacer for students with a CPT-Eligible Certificate of Completion. Another example may be high school placement testing. For some school districts and colleges, a paper/pencil version of the placement test was administered and is planned again for 2010-2011.

PURCHASING

Estimate purchases in number of units, including the following:

	<i>(No. of CAT Units)</i>	<i>(No. of Paper/Pencil Units)</i>
ACCUPLACER (fall 2010)		
ACCUPLACER (spring, summer 2011)		
PERT PLACEMENT (fall 2010)		
PERT PLACEMENT (spring, summer 2011)		
DIAGNOSTIC (2010-2011 academic year)		



STUDENT COST

Indicate the cost to the student, including the following:

- *Initial administration*
- *Re-take*

NOTE: Indicate if costs differ for placement and diagnostic.

STAFF TRAINING

Brief narrative on staff training/professional development efforts for staff (advisors and faculty)

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (EAP) PLACEMENT

Brief narrative indicating plans for EAP placement testing, if a change is anticipated

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Brief narrative regarding communications to stakeholders, including students and college staff (testing, disability coordinators, registrars, MIS, faculty)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Include additional information as needed (may address the following):

- *Diagnostic use and integration*
- *Student preparation for PERT (i.e., study guides, advising)*

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION READINESS TEST (PERT)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What are the interim placement scores?

The scoring scale range is 50-150.

Mathematics – MAT 1033: 112

Reading – ENC 1101: 103

Writing – ENC 1101: 98

NOTE: Additional scores will be recommended for developmental education placement and College Algebra. The Division will provide additional scores prior to September 15, 2010.

When will the final placement scores be established?

It is expected that there will be enough data resulting from PERT administrations available by the end of the summer term (2011) to establish final cut scores. Once the data is analyzed and cut scores identified, the Division will initiate revisions to State Board Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C. to include the PERT scores.

Should colleges continue to accept CPT (i.e., College Board Accuplacer) scores for placement purposes?

Yes, the CPT will continue to be an authorized placement assessment as well as SAT and ACT, as indicated in State Board Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

How many questions will comprise the PERT?

Each sub-test (i.e., reading, writing and mathematics) will be 30 questions.

How long will the PERT take students to complete?

It is estimated that students will take 45 minutes to complete each sub-test.

Will placement testing procedures for English for Academic Purposes (EAP) change as a result of PERT?

Currently, EAP placement procedures are determined by the college and this is expected to continue. Current testing instruments may continue to be administered. Once PERT is established statewide, there may be an opportunity to open a discussion about EAP placement procedures.

Is the diagnostic component of the PERT system (includes the placement component and diagnostic component) required?

No, the diagnostic is not required; however, colleges are encouraged to administer the diagnostic test to students not meeting the placement scores for entry level college credit to identify weaknesses and target remediation efforts to those identified areas.

Does the diagnostic component of the PERT system have to be administered in a secure, proctored testing facility?

8/4/2010

There is no requirement that the diagnostic be administered in a designated testing facility; however, it must be administered in a secure, proctored environment on the college campus. At-home diagnostic testing is prohibited.

Are students allowed to re-take the PERT immediately after the initial administration?

No, students should be required to spend time reflecting on their test results and preparing for the re-take. The Division recommends at least 30 days in between administrations. Each college should have a written re-take policy. With college input, a statewide re-test policy will be developed in 2011.

Will high schools be authorized to administer the PERT?

The Department's Division of Public Schools is researching the feasibility of high schools serving as authorized testing sites. Once high schools are deemed ready to administer computer-based tests, it is anticipated that the Department will authorize them as PERT sites.

Will the PERT be included on the U.S. Department of Education's (USDOE) list of eligible tests for federal financial aid ability-to-benefit (ATB) purposes?

Yes, McCann Associates and the Division are working with the USDOE and it is possible that the PERT will be ATB authorized as soon as spring 2011, unless there are USDOE constraints on authorizing based on pilot data. The Division will share new information as it becomes available.

Will the PERT be allowed for college level academic skills (CLAS) purposes?

Yes, the Division will work with McCann Associates to designate appropriate scores for CLAS purposes after the initial implementation is underway.

NOTE: It is anticipated that the 2011 Legislature will address the CLAS as a result of recommendations forwarded by the Articulation Coordinating Committee.

Will there be concordance with CPT, SAT and ACT for the PERT?

Yes, the Division will work with McCann Associates to identify concordant scores after the initial implementation is underway.