

## DIVISION OF LEARNING

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## Division of Learning

### ***Important Announcement to all Charlotte County Public School Stakeholders Regarding the Impact of Emergency Order 2021-EO-02 April 2021***

On April 9, 2021, the Florida Department of Education released **Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02**. Due to various reasons including the disproportionate numbers of students learning off campus, not attending school at all, or attending school virtually or in other learning modalities for the first time, students may have achievement gaps that are atypical for the student. As a result, testing that is required by state and federal law is now more critical than ever so that educators and parents can measure progress and identify gaps in learning in this challenging year. Therefore, expectations for participation in state assessments in spring 2021 remain constant. The Emergency Order does not waive or relax expectation for student participation in state assessments. The district will utilize the student data results of spring 2021 state assessment measurements to help determine what additional services and supports are needed to provide every student in our district with the opportunity to succeed in school and in life beyond school.

**Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02** allows the school district to use “local decision-making” authority to evaluate the academic progress of each student and then to make individualized decisions related to certain course grades and student progression, to include promotion, retention, and graduation. The school district is in full agreement with the state that the approach to these local decision-making opportunities are to be grounded in compassion and grace, ensuring that the overarching priority is to keep students safe and to keep students learning and moving forward.

Utilizing the authority provided in **Emergency Order No. 2021-EO-02**, the following actions will occur for currently enrolled students:

**2021 Graduation Waivers:** Currently enrolled students, who have not met the graduation required exit criteria of the Algebra 1 End-of-Course assessment and/or the Grade 10 FSA English Language Arts assessment, or earned a concordant/comparative score, and are on track to graduate in spring 2021 may be eligible for a **2021 Graduation Waiver**. The student’s transcript will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not the student’s high school record establishes a comparable level of achievement. If so, the assessment criterion will be waived. These students must still earn the necessary credits and meet the GPA requirements to graduate high school with any one of the various options available for students to earn a standard high school diploma. All procedures for the consideration of an ESE assessment waiver will remain in place and teams will follow ESE Department and state guidelines to award these waivers when applicable. If a Student with a Disability (SWD) has not had the opportunity to sit for an assessment required for graduation or would not otherwise meet the criteria for an ESE assessment waiver, he or she is eligible for a **2021 Graduation Waiver** if the student is on track to graduate in spring 2021.

Individuals wishing to learn more about the **2021 Graduation Waiver** should contact the school principal or the Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

2021 Designation Waivers: Currently enrolled students expected to graduate in spring 2021 are eligible to receive a *2021 Designation Waiver*. The school is authorized to waive the requirement to use assessments to earn these standard high school diploma designations (Scholar and Merit) defined in s.1003.4285, F.S. if the school determines that the student's high school record establishes a comparable level of achievement. All other requirements of the diploma designation (such as successful completion of courses of study) are still required to be met.

Individuals wishing to learn more about the *2021 Designation Waiver* should contact the school principal or the Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

State End-of-Course (EOC) Exams: All students currently enrolled in a course that triggers the requirement of participation in the state EOC exam are expected to sit for the EOC exam in the spring 2021 assessment season. The school district is authorized to determine promotion and final course grades in classes with EOC exams based solely on the student's performance in the course. The school district will determine the application of the student's EOC exam results on the final semester 1 and semester 2 grade of the applicable course on a case-by-case basis. This authorization includes in instances where the student does not have a score from the EOC exam. This authorization only applies to state EOC bearing courses students completed in the 2020-2021 school year.

Individuals wishing to learn more about the requirement of state EOC exam participation should contact the school principal or the Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

Retention: Decisions about whether it is in the best interest of a child to repeat a grade solely for academic reasons will be determined at the local level by the school's principal, after a careful review of the student's academic record. Only academic performance, or provisions in a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), can be considered when discussing a child repeating a grade. The school principal is authorized to gather input from the parents, the student, teachers, and school leaders when determining a retention outcome.

Individuals wishing to learn more about the school district's retention policy should contact the school principal or the Assistant Superintendent for Learning.

Third Grade Promotion: The school district is authorized to promote a grade three (3) student to grade four (4), regardless of the absence of an English Language Arts (ELA) assessment score or the absence of a Level 2 or higher ELA score. This authorization is provided to the school district if the district is able to determine that a student is performing at least at Level 2 on the ELA assessment through the good cause exemption process provided in s.1008.25 F.S. and the district's Student Progression Plan, or other means reasonably calculated to provide reliable evidence of a student's performance.

Individuals wishing to learn more about the school district's policy on grade three (3) promotion should contact the school principal or the Director of Elementary Learning.

Bright Futures: For currently enrolled students expected to graduate in the spring of 2021, high school certified school counselors, or other persons approved by the district, are allowed to submit transcript documentation to the FDOE to report compliance with the required number of volunteer service hours for scholarship eligibility if the student 1) completed the service hours; 2) had planned for, and intended to, complete the service hours prior to the student's high school graduation, but was unable to do so because the pandemic created a lack of access to volunteer opportunities; or 3) if due to health concerns, the student fell short of the volunteer service hours. Such documentation shall be considered as evidence that a student has completed the required number of volunteer service hours for scholarship eligibility. This authorization applies to the Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars, and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards.

The testing deadline is extended to assist students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year in meeting the required SAT and ACT scores as specified for the Florida Academic Scholars and the Florida Medallion Scholars awards to no later than December 1, 2021. Sections of the ACT and SAT from different test dates may continue to be used to meet the test criteria through December 1, 2021, but test types cannot be mixed. In addition, the testing deadline is extended to assist students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year in meeting the minimum required subtest scores from the PERT, SAT, or ACT as specified for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award to no later than December 1, 2021. Sections of the PERT, SAT, or ACT from different test dates may continue to be used to meet the test criteria through December 1, 2021, but test types cannot be mixed. Individuals wishing to learn more about Bright Futures should contact the school principal or the certified school counselor.