

# THE SCHOOL BOARD OF JACKSON COUNTY



Lee W. Miller  
Superintendent of Schools

2903 Jefferson Street  
P. O. Box 5958  
Marianna, Florida 32447  
Telephone 850-482-1200  
Fax 850-482-1299

February 1, 2010

Re: Electronic devices during FCAT testing

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 remind you of an important policy change that has been in effect since 2007.

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 violation *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 of the policy *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, clipped to the belt, at his or her desk, or within his or her reach during testing (even if the device is turned off and not being used), the test **will** be invalidated-**WILL NOT BE SCORED**.

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.

  
Lee W. Miller, Superintendent of Schools

  
Shirl Williams, Director, Student Services

**Terry E. Nichols**  
District 1

**Kenneth R. Griffin**  
District 2

**Betty B. Duffee**  
District 3

**Chris M. Johnson**  
District 4

**Charlotte M. Gardner**  
District 5