

Dear Parent:

Beginning this fall, students entering grades six through twelve will have new opportunities. New high school graduation options in Florida present students with three ways to graduate from high school.

While students may choose to participate in the current four-year, 24-credit standard program, there are two new options available so that students can graduate in three years with 18 credits. You should consider all of these options with your child to determine which will most benefit his or her future. The two new options, the **College Preparatory Program** and the **Career Preparatory Program**, were created for students who are interested in graduating from high school in three years if it will further their academic or career goals. Each option, including the standard, four-year graduation program, should carefully be considered to determine what is best for your child.

The number of credits within the College Preparatory Program aligns with the minimum standards for admission into Florida's state university system, while the Career Preparatory Program requirements are aimed toward entrance into a technical center or community college for the career choice your child makes with your guidance and support. Students may still pursue a college preparatory program or career preparatory program within the four-year, 24-credit standard program. Regardless of which graduation option you and your child choose, your child must also earn passing scores on the 10th grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in order to earn a standard diploma.

While fulfilling the requirements for any of these options, students will be encouraged to take advantage of other available programs such as advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, and Florida Virtual School courses. Advanced coursework in high school continues to be the best predictor of student success in postsecondary school endeavors. One or more of Florida's acceleration programs are available to all students regardless of which graduation option is chosen.

You play a very important role in planning your child's educational program so that it best advances their college or career choices. We encourage you to contact your child's school guidance counselor or career specialist to get additional information on all graduation options, financial aid opportunities, accelerated programs, and college or career plans to help you and your child make these important decisions. More specific information regarding the three graduation options is provided on the back of this letter.

Sincerely