

March 21, 2003

TO: All Principals

FROM: Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer and
Deputy Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: GRADES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Your assistance is requested to ensure that students with disabilities are graded in accordance with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2002-2003 Pupil Progression Plan (PPP). Though the Florida Legislature has recently revised the Florida School Code and there are changes in the requirements for student progression, the PPP reflects district policy.

All teachers, regardless of a student's exceptionality, **must** assign grades utilizing the **same** report card as general education students. Academic grades for students with disabilities shall be based upon achievement of individual educational plan (IEP) goals, mastery of the Sunshine State Standards (SSS)/Competency Based Curriculum (CBC), or a combination of both the achievement of IEP and SSS/CBC goals. Report card grades must reflect the student's documented levels of performance. Students may receive average and above average grades if the student is meeting the goals of his/her IEP or if he/she is mastering SSS/CBC course objectives, with or without accommodations. Pages 20-43 of the 2002-2003 PPP reflect the District's guidelines for grading students with disabilities.

Report card comment codes such as #21, #41, #47 and #48, as well as other appropriate codes, listed on pages 30-31 of the PPP, should be utilized to communicate accurate grading information. Parents/guardians should also be notified of unsatisfactory progress through interim progress reports and status reports of IEP goals (Inserts B and C). In addition, teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents/guardians at any time during the grading period when it becomes apparent that the student is not making appropriate progress.

The recent revisions to the Florida School Code have also impacted the District's third grade retention/promotion policies. Parents of students with disabilities affected by this policy were provided with information regarding retention/promotion policies via a District mail-out and memorandum (M429/02-03) from Ronald K. Felton, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Exceptional Student Education and Student/Career Service.

If you require additional information or assistance, please contact Ms. Brucie Ball, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Exceptional Student Education and Student/Career Services, at 305 995-1796 or e-mail: bball@sbab.dade.k12.fl.us or Ms. Joanne Rosen, District Staffing Specialist, Division of Exceptional Student Education, at 305 995-4697 or e-mail: jrosen@sbab.dade.k12.fl.us.

MT/BB:iis
M1359

cc: Ronald K. Felton
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