

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

SUBJECT: RETAKE OPPORTUNITIES TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO EARN SCHOLARS DESIGNATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Admission to Florida's public universities has become an increasingly competitive process over the past decade. Prospective students who complete a rigorous curriculum in high school are more likely to be successful in their pursuit of higher education. In addition to the traditional pathway whereby students earn a standard high school diploma, Florida high school students now have the option to follow two additional academic pathways that will not only make them more competitive when applying for admission to a public university, but will also provide them with a strong academic foundation to do well in college.

One such designation is the "Scholar" designation, which requires that students pass:

- an Advanced Placement course;
- two foreign language courses;
- two high-level math courses (Algebra II and statistics or an equally rigorous course), and
- state-issued, end-of-course exams (EOCs) in Algebra, Geometry, Biology and U.S. History, among other requirements.

As admission to college becomes increasingly demanding, having our students participate in more rigorous courses and earn additional credentials in high school will give them the competitive edge that will open the door to a successful higher education experience. Therefore, it is in the best interest of our students that they be aware of all the options available to them, including the additional diploma designations and the opportunity to retake the EOCs for those courses that exceed the requirements for a standard diploma designation.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ WURTZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to develop a campaign to encourage students to avail themselves of the retake opportunities for the State EOCs especially in those courses that exceed the requirements of the standard diploma designation (Algebra II, Geometry, Biology, and US History), so that they might earn a Scholar designation diploma.