



# SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

*"Preparing the next generation today"*

**Richard A. Shirley**  
Superintendent of Schools

May 20, 2015

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Dear Parents,

During the 2015 legislative session, HB 7069, "An act relating to education accountability" was passed and immediately became law upon being signed by Governor Scott. That is an unusual circumstance and has a significant and sudden impact on this year's students and tests. Traditionally, most laws become effective on July 1 of the new fiscal year and effect next year's classes. It is considered a better law than previously enacted and provided much needed flexibility in the area of accountability, as well as clarifying some discrepancies in previous legislation. As a follow-up, we have now received technical assistance on the implementation of HB 7069 from the Florida Department of Education and it does impact Sumter students- hence the need for this communication.

The technical assistance received on May 18, 2015, pertains specifically to the Spring 2015 administration of the newly implemented Florida Standards Assessments End-of-Course (EOC) exams for Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. For the 2014-2015 school year only, the previous statutory requirements to include these results in the final course grade are in the state's words "inoperative." This is due in part to the new tests in these three areas not meeting all of the statutory requirements in the newly passed HB 7069 referenced above that became effective immediately. As a result, school districts should calculate final course grades and make promotion decisions without regard to the 30 percent requirement that typically applies. The absence of EOC results alone in the courses should not result in a grade of incomplete.

Therefore, for this year only, we will not be recalculating course grades for these courses over the summer. The grades earned in the Spring 2015 for students in Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry will be final and will not include the EOC score. No other End of Course exam is included in this legislative change. Therefore, the grades earned in the Biology and U.S. History will be recalculated in the summer with the 30 percent requirement because the new law (HB 7069) did not change those historical requirements.

We will continue to monitor how these changes may impact graduation requirements and scholar designations by cohort as additional technical assistance is forthcoming. Rest assured that Sumter District Schools will interpret these new rules for the benefit of students wherever possible. We will do all that we can to insure that students receive any benefit of the doubt and we will err on the side of the students when the law is in flux.

In summary, Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry End of Course exams will have NO IMPACT on student grades this year as per passage of HB 7069. Please feel free to contact your student's administration if you have questions or concerns.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Richard A. Shirley  
Superintendent

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