



Vision:
100% Student Success

Mission:
"Educate and prepare each student for college, career, and life."

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April 9, 2021

Pinellas County Schools Families,

Congratulations! We're almost there! I know there were so many unknowns when we began the school year, but with hard work, determination and patience, together we have ensured that our students had a and meaningful school year.

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, we know there have been many questions about state assessments and End-of-Course exams. We have been awaiting final guidance from the state to ensure we communicate accurate, factual information. Today, Florida Department of Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran issued Emergency Order 2021-EO-02. You can read the full order here: <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19861/urllt/2021-EO-02.pdf>

The Order continues our Spring Florida Standards Assessments as planned, with several important changes. First, the assessments are completely diagnostic and will have no negative consequence for your student. The assessments will not be used to determine student grades, promotion/retention status, or for course selections in the 2021-22 school year. For individual students, the assessments will strictly be used to diagnose performance of grade-level standards and then determine which supports are necessary to accelerate student learning forward.

We understand that there may be some uneasiness about spring assessments due to the very unusual nature of this school year. However, we feel strongly that from both a health/safety standpoint and academic improvement perspective, that the assessments can be administered to benefit students and schools. Be assured, schools will follow all health and safety protocols for testing. For MyPCS Online and Pinellas Virtual School students, necessary accommodations have been made to allow your student to take the test at their school or a district facility. You may have already received (or will soon receive) a communication directly from your student's principal with more details on testing for your student's grade level.

Additionally, the Order addresses Bright Futures Scholars volunteer hours and testing deadlines, school grades and school improvement ratings and lowers the minimum number of instructional hours for Summer VPK programs from 300 to 200. We have additional detailed questions and answers to this new Order on our website at www.pcsb.org/fsafaq. For answers to specific questions, please reach out to your student's principal.

Finally, we know that many parents are concerned about learning loss over the last year. We encourage parents to enroll their child in our Summer Bridge programs. Students who participate in Summer Bridge are better prepared to begin the next school year. More information can be found at www.pcsb.org/summerbridge.

We are so proud of our students, families and staff for making the 2020-21 school year a meaningful and productive year of learning. We know it has not been ideal for anyone involved, but we also know that by working together, we created the best outcomes possible for our students and community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Grego, Ed.D.
Superintendent