



The School District of Osceola County, FL
Terry Andrews, Superintendent

Press Release

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No Early Release On Wednesday, April 18, 2012, During FCAT Testing

The Osceola County School District is planning ahead for the upcoming spring administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) by allowing students to have a full day of school on the testing Wednesday, which is usually an early-release day for students. **As such, parents should be advised that there will be no early release of students on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.** Students will be dismissed from school that day as they normally would on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

"By lengthening this Wednesday during testing, it allows for more flexibility of the school-wide testing schedule," said Superintendent Terry Andrews. "Schools will now have options to build in more opportunities for breaks between the different testing sessions to allow students to stretch, relax, and refocus. We want to provide every advantage to our students."

Osceola students will take the FCAT exam beginning on April 16 and ending on April 27, 2012.

Superintendent Andrews offers the following tips to parents to help their children make the test-taking process more manageable:

Become Knowledgeable About The Test

The FCAT test assesses a child's knowledge of the Sunshine State Standards at a particular point-in-time. It is simply a measuring stick to see how much that they have learned, not how much they have not learned. Ask your school for parent information on the test or about how to find available resources to help your children prepare at home. Parents are encouraged to ask their child's teacher and principal questions about the test as they arise.

Ensure A Good Night Sleep and Attendance

Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Students should get plenty of rest the night before, and on the morning of the test, make sure your child wakes up in plenty of time so the student does not feel rushed.

Provide A Healthy Breakfast

Be sure to give your child a good breakfast. Studies show that students who have eaten a healthy breakfast score much better on tests than those students who are hungry and unable to fully concentrate during tests.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Students may not have any electronic or recording device at their desk, in their pockets, or anywhere they can be reached during testing, even if they are turned off or not used. Students found with any electronic device during the test will have their test invalidated.

Encourage Your Child To Do His/Her Best

Remind your student that they have studied and worked hard all year, and they have every reason to feel confident that they will be successful. Encourage children to relax and do their best.

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