

**From:** Smith, Kevin  
**Sent time:** Tuesday, December 20, 2011 2:51:34 PM  
**To:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>  
**Subject:** RE: 12-20-11 Education Round Up

---

Cari,

Thanks for your message. Good question about intermingling the message. I guess that the new graduation cut score was going to be set as soon as Level 3 was defined for 10<sup>th</sup> grade, just like the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade progression cut score was going to be set as soon as Level 3 was defined for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

My biggest concern is actually that most folks don't seem to understand that the new scale only goes up to around 300 instead of 500. High school kids are going to hear that they 'only' need a 245 to graduate instead of a 300.

That's my personal take. This furor will die down quickly. I'm just glad that there is better alignment of the achievement levels from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade now.

Have a great afternoon and thanks again!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

Deputy Director,

Just Read, Florida! Office

Florida Department of Education

325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 501

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(850) 245-0503

(850) 245-5105 (Fax)

[www.justreadflorida.com](http://www.justreadflorida.com)



---

**From:** Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) [mailto:Cari@excelined.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2011 2:40 PM  
**To:** Smith, Kevin  
**Subject:** RE: 12-20-11 Education Round Up

Between me and you: Okay, so I'm back as the news is driving me crazy. The standard was actually lowered, with the new cut scores more students will score Level 3; what was raised is the score that a student has to receive to meet graduation requirements (which occurred through rule two years ago but just now going into effect). 52% will be proficient rather than 40% based on cut scores; based on the rule increasing the graduation requirement 52% will meet graduation requirements compared to the 60% that met it last year BASED on different graduation requirements. Why do you think the department intermingled these when communicating what was going down?

---

**From:** Smith, Kevin [mailto:Kevin.Smith@fldoe.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2011 2:33 PM

**To:** Walt Griffin; elefsky@cfl.rr.com; Lee, Laurie; Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org); Colle, Hope  
**Subject:** FW: 12-20-11 Education Round Up

FYI – have a great afternoon!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

Deputy Director,

Just Read, Florida! Office

Florida Department of Education

325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 501

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

(850) 245-0503

(850) 245-5105 (Fax)

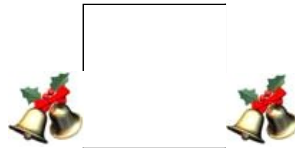
[www.justreadflorida.com](http://www.justreadflorida.com)



---

**From:** Higgins, Deborah  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2011 9:49 AM  
**Subject:** 12-20-11 Education Round Up

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



[FCAT scoring system to get tougher](#)  
(Bradenton Herald © 12/20/2011)

Miami Herald With a unanimous vote Monday, the State Board of Education approved a tougher scoring system for the FCAT, the state's standardized reading and math exam. The change is meant to raise the academic standards for Florida students. Last year, state officials rolled out the FCAT 2.0, a new version of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. A new scoring system is needed f...

[Mother of bullied middle-schooler sues Volusia schools](#)  
(Daytona Beach News-Journal © 12/20/2011)

DELAND – The mother of a special needs child who has been repeatedly bullied in Volusia County middle schools filed a lawsuit against the School Board on Monday claiming the agency and one of its former teachers failed to provide a safe setting for the youngster. When a group of boys pulled down the gym shorts of 13-year-old Dondre Jones' at Holly Hill Middle School in October 2010, police call...

### [Florida Board of Education approves new FCAT passing scores](#)

(Florida Today © 12/20/2011)

MIAMI – The state Board of Education approved a new set of passing scores for Florida's standardized test on Monday designed to ensure students are ready for college, but which could also have the effect of more students failing. The board voted unanimously in favor of the new scores for the revised Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math and reading during a conference call. Under the...

---

### [Police reveal details about FAMU band hazing](#)

(Florida Today © 12/20/2011)

Three Florida A&M University marching band members, all men, appeared before a judge Tuesday to face hazing charges in the beating of a woman band mate police said was hit so hard with fists and a metal ruler that she broke her thigh and had blood clots in her legs. The arrests marked the first details from authorities about the secret rituals this fall among the famed Marching 100 band. Police s...

---

### [Editorial: Let's not reject all federal money](#)

(Ft. Myers News Press © 12/20/2011)

A principled stand against taking one-time federal grants to help pay for recurring state programs makes sense, but Gov. Rick Scott is forfeiting money Florida badly needs for education. Scott says the federal government rejected Florida's application for a \$100 million early learning grant because he would not accept the "strings attached," including the funding commitment and what he called "...

---

### [Lee, Collier schools wait for bonuses](#)

(Ft. Myers News-Press © 12/20/2011)

Teachers and staff members at Lee and Collier counties' A-rated schools won't be getting their bonus money by Christmas, or even New Year's Day. The state, which typically releases bonus money to A-rated schools in the first week of October, plans on distributing bonus funds by mid-January at the earliest. The more than \$100 million in bonus funds are being delayed by the state's new grading form...

---

### [State Education Board OKs New FCAT Scores](#)

(Lakeland Ledger © 12/20/2011)

MIAMI | The state Board of Education approved a new set of passing scores for Florida's standardized test on Monday designed to ensure students are ready for college, but which could also have the effect of more students failing. The board voted unanimously in favor of the new scores for the revised Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math and ...

---

### [Officials encourage students to exercise on break](#)

(Orlando-WFTV (ABC) © 12/20/2011)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The holiday season means students across the state get a break from school, but education officials say it's not the time to take a break from exercise or wellness. The Illinois State Board of Education and state health officials are encouraging students to keep up with physical fitness, saying it can better prepare them for their studies and academic performance. Ger...

---

### [Fla. Gov. gets lesson in higher education politics](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 12/20/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Gov. Rick Scott in less than a week has gotten a crash course in the state's complicated higher education politics. Scott had already angered some in the state's academia when earlier this year he published university faculty salaries, questioned the need for training more anthropologists and pushed universities to turn over data on their performance. But his call to ...

---

#### [Math, science incentives urged for Fla. colleges](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 12/20/2011)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A panel of higher education and business leaders says Florida's colleges and universities should offer incentives for studying science, technology, engineering and math. Encouraging so-called STEM studies was one of several recommendations the Higher Education Coordinating Council made Monday to the Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott. It's something Scott also has advocated. Th...

---

#### [FCAT standards to get higher](#)

(St. Augustine Record © 12/20/2011)

December 19, 2011 - 10:25pm FCAT standards to get higher From staff and wire reports Local educators 'disappointed' MIAMI — The state Board of Education approved a new set of passing scores for Florida's standardized test on Monday designed to ensure students are ready for college, but which could also have the effect of more students failing. Proponents of the change say it's raisin...

---

#### [Gov. Rick Scott's shrinking Florida government workforce](#)

(St. Pete Times © 12/20/2011)

In the spirit of generosity that marks the holiday season, Gov. Rick Scott will give state workers an extra day off this Friday. How kind! Scott issued an executive order shutting all state office buildings two days before Christmas. Will anybody notice? State employees have become practically an endangered species in Florida. Year in and year out, they are sacrificed at the altar o...

---

#### [Go slower on FCAT revise](#)

(Sun-Sentinel © 12/20/2011)

Now four months into office, state Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson wants to leave an indelible first impression on Florida's scholastic future. His footprint. Topics Teaching and Learning Students Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test See more topics » XSchool Examinations Three advisory panels recommended tougher minimum scores, or "cut scores," for the revised standardi...

---

#### [FAMU Board to Rick Scott: Mind Your Own Business](#)

(Sunshine State News © 12/20/2011)

Credit: Gage Skidmore - FlickrWith some lawmakers saying the school was being made a "scapegoat," the Florida A&M board of trustees rejected – by keeping their president in place – what they say was political pressure from Gov. Rick Scott. Scott responded to the board's action with a terse note saying he only suggested what he continues to believe would be in the best interests of the unive...

---

#### [Gov. Scott's push to fire FAMU president angered students, alumni](#)

(WFTS ABC Channel 28 Tampa © 12/20/2011)

Florida Gov. Rick Scott in less than a week has gotten a crash course in the state's complicated higher education politics. Scott had already angered some in the state's academia when earlier this year he published university faculty salaries, questioned the need for training more anthropologists and pushed universities to turn over data on their performance. But his call to suspend Fl...

---

[Education's coconut cake problem](#)

(Boston Globe © 12/19/2011)

Harvard professor Roland Fryer has made a discovery with the potential to transform public education. To understand it, though, it helps to first hear a story about the conundrum of the coconut cake. Fryer's grandmother makes an astounding coconut cake, a magical confection of sweetness and air he's loved since he was a kid growing up in Florida. Fryer wanted to learn to make the cake himself...

---