

SB 354 – Middle Grades Reform

The purpose and intent of the middle grades reform is to provide added focus and rigor to middle school academics in the middle grades.

Curricula and Courses

- ☛ Focus on reading and language arts; research-based proven effective programs.
- ☛ DOE to consult with experts and make findings and recommendations.
- ☛ State Board of Education rules by March 1, 2005.
- ☛ Phase-in of new/revised reading courses beginning in 2005-06 and completed by 2008-09.

Rigorous Reading Requirement

- ☛ Beginning in 2004-05, middle schools with fewer than 75% students reading on grade level must incorporate a rigorous reading requirement for reading and language arts as the primary component of the school improvement plan.
- ☛ DOE will provide a list of schools by June 30th and give assistance in implementation.
- ☛ School will provide quarterly reports to superintendent on the progress of students toward increased reading achievement.
- ☛ Results of implementation are to be used as part of the annual evaluation of instructional personnel and administrators.

Comprehensive Study

- ☛ DOE to conduct study to include specified elements.
- ☛ Report to Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2004.

Personalized Middle School Success Plan

- ☛ Beginning with 2004-05, designated school staff will administer a personalized middle school success plan for each entering sixth grade student who scored below level 3 on FCAT reading.
- ☛ Must minimize paperwork.
- ☛ Plan to include identified components.

DOE Study

- ☛ Conduct a study to determine the status and develop detailed recommendations.
- ☛ Study to include specified components and an assessment of the fiscal impact of any recommended changes.

Physical Fitness Assessment

- ☛ Develop or select a physical assessment instrument by March 1, 2005.

Support Materials

- ☛ DOE to develop and distribute materials to enable implementation of fitness assessment programs by December 1, 2004.

Physical Education Programs/Policies

- ☛ District school boards to adopt a written PE policy by December 1, 2004.
- ☛ Provide copy to DOE by December 15, 2004.