



## GRADUATION CREDITS

### FLORIDA PTA POSITION

The Florida PTA asks that the Legislature require 24 credits for high school graduation.

#### Background

In 2003, the Legislature reduced the requirements for high school graduation to 18 credits. Students can earn a high school diploma upon passing the 10<sup>th</sup> grade FCAT and acquiring a total of 18 credits. Students can take less rigorous high school courses in order to earn their diploma and exit high school early. This puts at risk the preparation of students for college and a global workforce.



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## Talking Points

- Excludes a variety of courses currently required within the traditional four-year program such as computer science, physical education, practical arts, performing arts, life management skills.
- Limits opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities and athletics.
- Limits elective choices and course exploration.
- Graduation acceleration programs that allow students to achieve 24 credits in three years already were in place in many districts.
- Reduces access to dual enrollment and other acceleration mechanisms (tuition free college/credit) by one year.

March 2005

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