Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has created two new diploma designations: Scholar and Merit. These designations are not separate diplomas and will only show on a student’s transcript after the conclusion of the academic year if met.

In order for seniors to receive the Scholar designation, students must complete selected courses and pass the Biology and US History End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments in addition to the standard graduation requirements based on their cohort.

The Florida Legislature has made no exemption for passing these assessments through concordant/comparative scores on related assessments (e.g. Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate) or by allowing students who took these courses before the assessments were offered to receive an exemption.

If you would like for your student to take the Biology and/or US History End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment in order to attempt to qualify for the Scholar’s Designation, please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return to your school.

Sincerely,

Brandon McKelvey, Ph.D.

Senior Director

Accountability, Research and Assessment

By signing this form, I am permitting my child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take the End-of-Course (EOC) assessment in:

 [ ]  Biology

 [ ]  US History

I understand that this statewide assessment is not required for the course my student is taking at this time; however, my child is permitted to take the assessment in order to attempt to qualify for the Scholar’s designation.

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 (Print Parent/Guardian Name) (Parent/Guardian Signature)

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 (Date)