

### Aligning Standards and Testing

Curriculum alignment describes “the degree of match between test content and the subject area content identified through state academic standards” (La Marca, 2001). Florida high schools are faced with the challenge of reconciling the demands of the A+ Plan with teaching the Sunshine State Standards in a balanced manner that ensures a quality education for all students. In the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC), there has been no consistent high school English curriculum, and there has been no unilateral decision as to how or what students should be taught, despite the fact that standardized tests inevitably affect classroom instruction (Shepherd, 1991). The proposed study will investigate how four SDPBC high schools have adjusted their 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English curricula with selected benchmarks tested on the FCAT, as well as the extent to which English teachers believe that what they are teaching corresponds to the FCAT. Lastly, the attitudes toward these teachers toward the curriculum adjustments will be surveyed. This information will be collected through teacher surveys and examination of department-based curriculum documents.