

# Graduation requirements, from p. 2

And the problem has increased in severity, because, pressed by a budget crunch, the Dade County School Board has had to raise the student-teacher ratio in high schools to 1 to 35.

Another facet of the Educational Accountability Act sets minimum standards for math proficiency, and requires a similar test.

Although the Legislature has kept the contents of both tests under tight security, the math department heads of the four Southwest-area high schools

created a mock exam from a list of previously released objectives.

This year's juniors and seniors took that test last February and the results echoed the gloomiest forecasts.

67% of SMSH's juniors and 53% of the seniors failed it. Placement in math classes was affected, as well as curriculum, by the disappointing results.

"We will now have to teach especially for State tests," said Mary Margaret Odom, SMSH math department head.

The act will not only affect 11th graders. Separate skills

tests will be given at the third, fifth and eighth grade levels to more quickly diagnose inefficiencies.

Should students fail these tests, they will be held back. High school students will have three chances to pass the literacy test. If, by the end of their twelfth grade year, they can not, they will be given a Certificate of Attendance in place of a diploma.

This certificate attests that the student attended 12 years of school, but was not able to meet the minimum standards to graduate.

Class gov't officers