



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida Superintendents Support Commissioner Stewart's Cut Score Recommendation and the Inclusive Process

Tallahassee, FL – Florida district school superintendents embrace their Constitutional duty to ensure that Florida's 2.7 million public school students have a high quality public school accountability system that promotes student learning and performance, graduates students prepared for careers and postsecondary education, and supports a teacher and school-based administrator evaluation system based upon student achievement and professional practices. Florida superintendents have steadfastly defended and supported high standards, increased rigor and an accountability system that is fair, accurate, and reliable.

To that point, superintendents:

- **Support the established, inclusive cut score process that has previously been used six (6) times since 1998 to establish cut scores for Florida assessments.**
To deviate from the established Florida Department of Education (DOE) process negates the process itself and calls into question the need for the process. It also further undermines public confidence in Florida's already fragile accountability system.
- **Support Florida Education Commissioner Pam Stewart's final cut score recommendations.**
Commissioner Stewart's recommendations reflect the work of the Educator and Reactor Panels as well as stakeholder input from three public workshops.
 - **Support the work of more than 300 members of the Educator Panel.** The qualified individuals on the Educator Panel had access to and reviewed a sampling of 2015 Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) test items, which serves as the basis for their recommendation. For the State Board of Education (SBE) to consider any cut score recommendation void of this component fundamentally undermines the process.
 - **Support the work of the 16-member Reactor Panel.**

- **Support holding school grades in abeyance and using 2014-15 FSA as a baseline year.**

It is not an accurate reflection of the hard work of Florida’s public school students and teachers to issue school grades based on suspect and incomplete data resulting from a questionable assessment, coupled with the absence of baseline data to calculate the required learning gains component.

Florida district school superintendents continue to stand ready to work with DOE, the Florida Legislature and all stakeholders, to develop a viable accountability system that will regain the trust of our students, teachers, parents and communities.

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