

# FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC

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TALLAHASSEE

August 18, 2015

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida  
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) is a staunch supporter of the Florida Standards and of valid and reliable state assessments that measure student progress in mastering those standards. However, due to the extensive disruption and confusion that surrounded the initial administration of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA), we are deeply concerned that the results may not accurately reflect student progress and achievement. As a result, we urge you to direct the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) to waive the use of the 2015 FSA assessment results for the purposes of student progression, teacher evaluation, school grades, and district ranking.

We realize that there are several "hold-harmless" measures in place for the transition to the new assessments, but this has come in a patchwork that has created more confusion than relief. Further, it must be noted that, even if the independent evaluation of statewide assessments that is currently underway finds that the FSA is psychometrically valid, the adverse conditions under which the test was administered raise significant concern about whether the test is psychometrically reliable. This is of particular concern since both psychometric reliability and validity are essential in determining performance baselines and in projecting future performance expectations. An executive order that provides a comprehensive declaration from you stating that the state will forego the use of the 2015 test results is needed to acknowledge these circumstances and to eliminate any confusion.

FSBA is also concerned that educators, students, and the broader community have expressed a lack of trust in the essential fairness of statewide standards and assessments. While we applaud the efforts of Commissioner Stewart's Keep Florida Learning Committee, it is evident that this Committee has a broad agenda that is not centered on the state assessment system. To focus on this issue, we recommend the formation of a diverse committee of Florida teachers and district personnel to review the FSA. This committee could provide a vital link between the state and local communities that would improve communication and public understanding of the state assessment and accountability system.

We offer these recommendations because we are confident of your desire for Florida to be a leader and national model for thoughtful education reforms. With that in mind, we urge you to direct the FLDOE to waive the use of the 2015 FSA assessment results and to form a committee to review, and improve public understanding of, the FSA. Please let us know if we can assist you in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Caroline Zucker, President



Andrea Messina, Executive Director