

**RESOLUTION 2014-10-A**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN OPPOSITION OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S (FDOE) INTENT TO ISSUE SCHOOL GRADES IN A TRANSITION YEAR FOR STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS AND CONNECTING THE RESULTS TO TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EVALUATIONS.**

**WHEREAS,** The Santa Rosa County School Board and Superintendent of Schools support and commend the FDOE's implementation of new standards and the full testing of students on the new assessment in 2014-15; and

**WHEREAS,** a fair, valid, and reliable state accountability system is required and supported by the District to ensure that all students are prepared and inspired to ensure success in college, workforce, and life; and

**WHEREAS,** the FDOE has not sufficiently field tested the new assessments with Florida students to responsibly determine learning gains and therefore a school grade; and

**WHEREAS,** 32 changes to the accountability system over the last three years and the prevention of school grades being reduced by more than a letter grade has led the public to lose confidence in the school grading system; and

**WHEREAS,** the FDOE did not release item specifications for the new assessments in adequate time to properly inform and prepare for professional development, district progress monitoring tools, and curriculum decisions before the start of the school year; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan, has allowed states to postpone tying student achievement to evaluations for one year for states implementing the new standards; and

**WHEREAS,** the FDOE properly field tested the FCAT before issuing school grades in 1998. Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board of Santa Rosa County:

That the Florida Legislature, in cooperation with the FDOE, fully implement the new standards and test all students and grade levels during the 2014-15 school year while transparently publishing all results at the district, school, and teacher level to establish baseline data, and to forego issuing school grades, linking 2014-15 results to teacher and principal evaluations, and retaining students at the third grade level.

ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY

October 23, 2014

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Dr. Diane L. Scott, Chairman

Mr. Tim S. Wyrosdick, Superintendent

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Resolution No. 14-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA (“School Board”) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY (“Superintendent of Schools”) IN OPPOSITION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S (“FLDOE”) INTENT TO ISSUE SCHOOL GRADES AND TO CONNECT STUDENT ASSESSMENT RESULTS TO BOTH RETENTION AND PROMOTION AND TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EVALUATIONS, DURING A PERIOD OF TRANSITION TO NEW STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS.

**WHEREAS**, The School Board and Superintendent of Schools support and commend the FLDOE’s revision to and implementation of the new Florida Standards and the full testing of students on the new assessment in 2014-15; and

**WHEREAS**, a fair, valid, and reliable state accountability system is supported by the School Board and Superintendent of Schools to ensure that all students are prepared and inspired to ensure success in college, workforce, and life; and

**WHEREAS**, 34 changes to the accountability system over the last three years and the prevention of school grades being reduced by more than a letter grade has led the public to lose confidence in the school grading system; and

**WHEREAS**, the FLDOE has purchased the state of Utah’s reading and math assessment to be administered in Florida without first field testing the assessment on students in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the transition timeline created by the FLDOE does not allow for a systematic and purposeful conversion to the new standards; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers need time to master the new standards, item specifications, and changes in instruction necessitated by the rigor embedded within the new standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the FLDOE has not provided adequate or timely training on the new writing assessment; and

**WHEREAS**, because a finalized writing rubric was not adopted by the FLDOE until October 2014, with district training not scheduled until December 2014, teachers are left unable to timely prepare students for the new writing assessment to be administered in March 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of instructional materials and resources, including technology, is severely deficient in meeting the new standards and preparing students for the new testing platform; and

**WHEREAS**, professional development must play a major role in the transition to the new Florida Standards and time is needed to fully and confidently implement the professional development initiatives to properly prepare our teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, the FLDOE did not release item specifications for the new assessments in adequate time to develop and prepare for professional development, district progress monitoring tools, and curriculum decisions before the start of the school year; and

**WHEREAS**, the FLDOE properly field tested the FCAT before issuing school grades in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, the FLDOE has not field tested the new assessments with Florida students to responsibly determine their learning gains and therefore issue accurate 2014-2015 school grades; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2015-2016 Florida Standards Assessment must be considered a baseline in generating accurate cut scores and therefore determining appropriate achievement levels and passing scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has allowed states to postpone tying student achievement to teacher and principal evaluations for one year for states implementing the new standards; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board of Okaloosa County, Florida:

1. That the Florida Legislature, in cooperation with the FLDOE, fully implement the new Florida Standards and test all students and grade levels during the 2014-15 school year while transparently publishing all results at the state, district, school, and teacher level to establish baseline data.
2. That FLDOE not issue school grades tying 2014-15 as well as 2015-2016 test results to the retention of students at the third grade level and teacher and principal evaluations until 2016-2017.

ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2014.

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Rodney L. Walker  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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Mary Beth Jackson  
Superintendent