

SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-13

A RESOLUTION BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON
TRANSITIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, The St. Johns County School Board and Superintendent of Schools support increased rigor, high standards and embrace a fair, valid and reliable state accountability system that prepares all students for college, career and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, there has been an incredible amount of change to Florida's standards and accountability system, including school grades and teacher evaluations, over the last few years; and

WHEREAS, the new Florida Standards Assessment has not been sufficiently field tested with Florida students to responsibly determine learning gains, but instead relies on field testing in Utah, so that the first administration scheduled for spring 2015 will be untried, untested, and an unknown for students, teachers, and parents; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Education established precedence during the transition to the FCAT when it took a full year in 1997 for field testing and another full year in 1998 to establish a baseline for measuring student achievement prior to issuing school grades for the first time in 1999; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of a school's grade is made up of learning gains, which currently require prior year data from the same assessment, and therefore will be hard to accurately calculate without a baseline period of testing and the required standard-setting for school grades will not take place until after the first administration of the new exam; and

WHEREAS, school districts are required to administer for each course, in every grade level, an end-of-course exam that measures student mastery, which equates to over 500 locally created assessments for the St. Johns County School District; and


WHEREAS, a large number of statewide assessments will be administered online or computer based and there is an assumption that all students have the computer literacy skills to successfully take the assessments online, and that all schools are able to meet the technology requirements for computer based testing, including hardware, software, networking, security and broadband capacity; therefore

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida, calls on the Governor, the Florida Legislature, and the Florida Department of Education to hold in abeyance the full implementation of the teacher evaluation and compensation system and the issuance of school grades for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years in order to establish a baseline and set cut scores. Further, in order to ensure transparency and accountability, the Florida Department

of Education should publish all results of the assessment at the district and school levels. Further, the Florida Legislature should ensure there is no negative impact on third grade student promotion or student graduation during the two-year transition period.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida this 13th day of November, 2014.

SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Its Chairperson