

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

Dr. Diane L. Scott, Chairman

Mr. Tim S. Wyrosdick, Superintendent