

SB964/HB1249 Analysis and Recommendations:

There are many excellent aspects of SB964/HB1249. Here are the ones we strongly support:

- Elimination of all of the end of course exams with the exception of Biology and Algebra I
- Elimination of the 9th grade FSA
- Elimination of Value Added Measure (VAM) formula from the accountability system
- Provision for non-electronic testing options

We respectfully suggest the following amendments/recommendations to make this good bill even stronger:

- Remaining EOC's should be worth 15% of the student's final grade as opposed to 30% as is currently done.
- Provide a paper and pencil option to parents on request even if district chooses to continue giving tests online. We suggest inserting the following on line 918 after the word "assessments."
"If a school district does not utilize the non-electronic option, it must notify parents of its decision and allow a parent to request that his or her child take the assessment non-electronically instead."
- Cancel the contract with American Institutes for Research (AIR)
"The contract with the American Institutes of Research for the Florida Standards Assessment is hereby ended after the spring 2017 testing season and shall not be renewed."
- Utilize a pre-2009 nationally norm-referenced test in place of AIR
"The Commissioner of Education shall select one pre-2009 nationally norm-referenced assessments for English language arts, mathematics, and science in place of the FSA by AIR."
- Prohibit standardized testing of any kind in any subject for students in pre-kindergarten through second grade
- Remove the ESSA-based accountability language that allows subjective social-emotional assessments (struck items below)
2.At least one indicator of school quality or student
1366 access which is measurable and may include, but is not limited
1367 to, student engagement; educator engagement; student access to
1368 and completion of advanced coursework, postsecondary readiness,
1369 school climate and safety; student attendance; or student
1370 persistence, for at least 10 percent of the school grade.