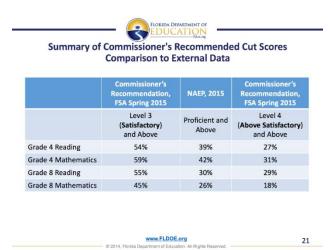


Common Ground is a working group of Florida education advocacy organizations, representing a broad political spectrum, standing together to ensure access to a high quality education for every child.

SB926/HB773 – This bill pursues the worthwhile goal of attempting to decrease testing in Florida. While it does reduce the testing window to three weeks and puts the testing at the end of the year, in fact, it does not decrease the number of tests or the stakes attached to the tests. In addition, there are two significantly problematic pieces of language in this legislation. Below are our concerns and recommendations for dealing with them.

Unrealistic FSA Cut Scores - Language in this bill increases the FSA cut scores to levels beyond
grade level proficiency, tying them to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
This is contrary to a 6 to 1 decision of the Florida State Board of Education to tie level 4 on the
FSA to proficiency and keeping the level 3 as satisfactory. This position was also supported by

multiple reactor panels made up of teachers, parents, and other stakeholders. If the cut scores are changed as proposed, the passing rate will change from 54% to 39% on the 4th grade FSA, according to data from the Florida Department of Education. This will result in many more students being retained in 3rd grade as well as high school students not receiving their diplomas, all based on an arbitrary decision. The likely result of this will be cost prohibitive in both human and financial terms.



Recommendation – This provision is so problematic it must be removed.

Expanding CBE Statewide - The language shown below will result in expansion of Competency
 Based Education (CBE) to every district in the state instead of districts included in the pilot

(d) Beginning with any new contract for the ELA assessment in grades 3 through 10 and the mathematics assessment in grades 3 through 8 entered into after July 1, 2017, each new assessment shall be made available once per quarter for students who the school district has identified through competency-based education as having mastered the content and who are prepared to take the applicable assessment.

program last year.(Lake, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Seminole County districts plus the PK Yonge Developmental Research School) No expansion of CBE should be considered until data from the pilot

districts becomes available. Already, Lake County, one of the pilot districts, is considering halting the program due to scant evidence of improvement at a very high cost of 2.5 million dollars per year.

Recommendation – The language in lines 128-134 should apply only to the districts cited in the CBE pilot program.