



Florida Superintendent & School Board Candidates' Views on Common Core,



High Stakes Testing & Other important Education Issues

The Florida Stop Common Core Coalition

County	Position	Names/Party	Position on Common Core (CCSS)/Florida Standards	Position on High Stakes Testing (HST)	Other Issues - Student Data Privacy, Social Emotional Learning, Pre-K, Transgender Issue, etc.
Bay	Superintendent	Bill Husfelt (I) – REP Won	“The biggest issue our schools face are the unrelenting demands placed on our teachers and students by Tallahassee and Washington. We must stand up and say enough is enough – Common Core and the tests that come with it is not the answer to helping students succeed. Parental involvement/education is the real key to individual student success.”	“The biggest issue our schools face are the unrelenting demands placed on our teachers and students by Tallahassee and Washington. We must stand up and say enough is enough – Common Core and the tests that come with it is not the answer to helping students succeed. Parental involvement/education is the real key to individual student success.”	
		James McCalister – DEM	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including this Q&A	No position found on HST after internet search, including this Q&A	
Bradford	District 2	Jim Peronto	Opposes as “next big thing”	“ Considers standardized testing to be absurd and merely a moneymaker for those in charge of it.	
		Charnelle Whittemore Won	Opposes as “an unnatural way of teaching”	“Standardized test scores need to improve. ”	
	Superintendent	Stacey Creighton – REP Won	Doesn't like CCSS but believes it must be kept to prepare students for tests.	Supports testing.	
		Chad Farnsworth (I) – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including this profile.	No position found on HST after internet search, including this profile.	
		Teddy Key – DEM	“It is a necessary evil. ”	“...it doesn't need to hinge funding, promotions, graduations because then you're holding kids back for a standardized test that has weaknesses.”	
		Mark Scott – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search	No position found on HST after internet search	

Brevard	District 3	Darcey Addo	Opposes – “I see [] developmental inappropriateness of the standards as a glaring concern” & “I am very opposed to the private organizations and foundations who are funding the CCSS, as the necessity of the reform to rank and sort teachers, schools, and students.”	“I am concerned with the excessive reliance on testing in all grades, starting earlier than ever.” “Perhaps most problematic ... is the demand that teachers focus on tested subjects at the expense of whole-child education.”	“The accessibility of children's data and the way that it is so wantonly passed to private companies is frightening. Perhaps more frightening is that most people seem unaware of this reality.”
		Tina Descovich Won	Opposes – “infringes on the fundamental rights of parents to oversee their children's education” & “works directly against our professionally trained teachers and their ability to teach children with their unique abilities and characteristics in mind.”	Supports the rights of parents to have their children minimally participate in testing. (20:00)	
	District 4	Karen Henderson (I)	“Especially in the primary grades, what’s there is not age-appropriate – that the standards do not fit the needs of the kids.” Forum 39:53	"Having everything based on one test is too much weight"	Supports returning to an elected commissioner of education
		Matt Susin Won	Criticized Common Core as “curriculum unfit for our district.”	“Teachers were being evaluated to it and it was a bad situation.” Forum 38:57	
Calhoun	District 2	Ray Howell Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search	No position found on HST after internet search	
		Kevin Gene O’ Bryan	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search	No position found on HST after internet search	
	Superintendent	Kelly King – NPA	Wants to work with lobbyist to change this policy. Forum 1:02:35	“...NO, a standardized test score should not outweigh 180 days of classwork ... The emphasis placed on FSA scoring is negatively impacting our schools. The scoring criteria is very convoluted and there is not enough space on this post to explain all of it, but in summary our teachers are forced to teach to a test and to focus on those students that can positively affect the school grade.”	“We must protect the safety of all of our children.” 1:09:38
		Jimmy Marshall – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including this forum .	No position found on HST after internet search, including this forum .	“There is no right answer or wrong answer” 1:11:05
		Ivey McClain – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including this forum .	No position found on HST after internet search, including this forum	Supports USED position on transgender bathrooms 1:07:05
		Ralph Yoder (I) – NPA Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including FB and this forum .	No position found on HST after internet search, including FB and this forum	Will enforce current policy and support community values. 1:08:32

Citrus	District 4	Sandy Counts Won	“Both Counts and Murray are wary of Common Core testing and the greater implications of mandated education versus more local approaches to curriculum .” “There’s no level of mastery with Common Core, so it needs to be simplified.”	“ Counts said she would like to have less standardized testing throughout the year and less blame on teachers for failing students — and in some cases, less blame on students who don’t test well.”	
		Bill Murray	“Murray shares the belief that Common Core somewhat fails to keep children at the forefront and that more decisions should be made locally.”	“Both Counts and Murray are wary of Common Core testing ”	
Clay	Superintendent	Addison Davis – REP Won	From vision on website - “ Establishing high academic standards coupled with quality teaching and learning in every classroom, every day.” [Are Florida/Common Core Standards not high?]	No position on HST found on website or FB page or after internet search.	“ Davis said he would look to hire additional counselors, social workers and behavioral interventionists to support the psychological health of students.”
		Marion Keith Nichols – WRI	No position found on CCSS/FS on FB or after internet search.	On FB in response to older article of Lee County rejecting state testing - “local control of the schools work best and our teachers are our experts on what our children need in their educational development.	
		Rebekah Shively – NPA	“ I do reject this [CCSS]. I believe that our children will, with a focus on classical education, critical thinking, and creativity, be more robust and perform better academically, than those who indulge in the trend of the day.”	“ I do not fear accountability , but feel that the test and how it is used should not be for the collection of information for the gov't, but should be used to evaluate the classroom content a student has mastered. Schools should be joyful places of learning and discovery, not stress filled test factories.”	
Desoto	District 4	Sharon Goodman	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search.	No position on HST found after internet search.	
		Judy Kirkpatrick Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search.	No position on HST found after internet search.	

	Superintendent	Robert Bennett – REP	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including FB .	“A focus on meaningful teacher training that targets effective instructional practices, morale building, parental involvement with fidelity, and the development of a sensible student assessment (testing) program is what is needed. Bobby Bennett understands these things and provides us with the best chance of future success” – FB Endorsement	
		Adrian Cline – DEM Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after FB & internet search	No position found on testing after FB & internet search	
Dixie	District 1	Patrick Bell	Not in favor of Common Core	Believes there should be more teaching and less testing	
		Chrystal Bush Won	No position on CCSS found after FB & internet search.	No position on high stakes testing after FB & internet search	
	Superintendent	Jimmie Green, Jr. – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS in this interview or after internet search.	No position found on HST interview or after internet search.	
		Cheryl Pridgeon – NPA	No discussion of CCSS in this profile or after internet search	“A test that gives some sort of shorter assessment , given several times a year, would be a better snapshot of a child’s progress...”	
		Mike Thomas – NPA Won	“It’s kind of gotten away from teachers being able to teach the students and students being able to learn.”	“There’s a lot of pressure and high stakes on testing.”	
Duval	District 7	Lori Hershey Won	Both candidates object to Duval’s implementation of the Common Core , the national set of academic standards. In Duval, teachers are forced to follow scripts on a daily basis	Both candidates said there’s too much testing .	Critical of Duval’s reliance on the online curriculum Engage New York, saying its lessons often are not age-appropriate.
		Barbara Toscano	Both object to Duval’s implementation of the Common Core , the national set of academic standards. In Duval, teachers are forced to follow scripts on a daily basis. CCSS is “controlled by companies which hope to profit from increased testing and curriculum purchases on national levels.”	Both candidates said there’s too much testing. “More than ever, our kids are losing instruction time to tests ”	
Escambia	Superintendent	Malcolm Thomas (I) – REP Won	No discussion of CCSS/FS in this profile or after internet search.	Neither candidate discussed tests or after internet search	
		Gerald Washington – WRI	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search.	No position found on high stakes testing after internet search.	

		Claudia Williams – DEM	No discussion of CCSS in forum or after internet search	No discussion of tests in forum or after internet search	
Flagler	District 5	Maria Barbosa Won	Refused to answer questions this year. Appeared to oppose CCSS in 2014.	Refused to answer questions this year. Concerned about HST in 2014.	
		Myra Middleton Valentine	Believes students should be “functioning at or above minimum standards”	Students should be “measured by a standardized instrument” and graduate.”	
Franklin	Superintendent	Stephanie H Jones – NPA	No information available on views on CCSS on FB page	Boasts of getting rid of all non-state mandated tests on FB page .	
		Traci Moses – DEM Won	Wants “curriculum & professional development in correlation to student and staff needs, as well as being aligned to the Florida State Standards. ”	No information on views on standardized testing on FB page .	
		Franklin Lee Stephens – REP	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search, including website .	No position found on HST after internet search, including website .	
Gadsden	Superintendent	Elijah Key – NPA	No position on CCSS/FS on website or after search.	No position on HST on website after internet search	
		Roger Milton – DEM Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search	No position found on HST after internet search	
Glades	Superintendent	Supt Scott Bass (I) – DEM Won	No position on CCSS/FS found on website or after internet search	No position found on HST on website or after testing	
		Robert Ringstaff – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS after search.	No position found on HST after internet search.	
Hamilton	Superintendent	Rex Mitchell – DEM Won	No position found on CCSS/FS on website or after internet search	“When you are chasing test scores you attempt to use strategies that don’t necessarily correlate to good foundational teaching. You are looking for ways to take, I’ll say short cuts, so that you raise student’s test scores.”	
		Thomas Moffses (I) – REP	From FB –Criticized opponent for not involving district in RTTT grant to give professional development for new standards	"It [the FSA] appears to become more punitive now than diagnostic"	
Hendry	Superintendent	Richard Murphy – DEM	No position found on CCSS/FS on website or after internet search.	No position found on HST on website or after internet search.	
		Paul Puletti (I) – REP Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search.	No position found on HST after internet search.	
Hernando	District 4	Gus Guadagnino (I) Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search	" There is too much state-mandated testing , and we don't know how accurately it reflects our achievement. Until those tests are reduced and evaluated, I think that parents should have the opportunity to opt out. "	

		William James Vonada	“... some standards for curriculum at the state and federal level, but do not believe in our current system. These standards need to be much more general and less stringent. The more specific standards should be developed/enforced at the discretion of local school district”	We need much less testing. When the grade on the test is more important than the actual lessons and/or learning that takes place, we have a problem.	
Highlands	Superintendent	Brenda Longshore – REP Won	Speech - “Standards are state mandated. They are not a federal initiative.” “...We are able to accomplish that [local control of standards] by the curriculum we teach.”	No position found on HST after internet search or in this speech	
		Stephen Picklesimer – DEM	“The focus is mostly around teaching the standards . Not a bad idea in itself but misses the mark of meeting individual student needs. And our scores continue to drop. We can do better.” Some standards are “ vague and convoluted. ”	“ Students are more than test scores and teaching is more than preparing for the next high-stakes test. Students need diverse learning opportunities to achieve success.”	
Hillsborough	District 5	Joseph Jordon-Robinson, Jr.	2012 – “Current education is considered an inch deep and a mile wide, students skim through many topics in each subject. With the CCSS, education will be a mile deep and an inch wide, emphasizing an in-depth analysis of relatively few topics.”	2012 – “I do believe there are too many tests given in a single school year. The district should reduce the number to one standardized test per year, alternating between those that are considered the most informative.”	
		Tamara Patrice Shamburger Won	Website, FB, & internet search reveal no position on CCSS/FS	Website, FB, & internet search reveal no position on HST.	
	District 7 At Large	Lynn Gray Won	“... revising learning standards and curriculum are but a few examples of interventions which can be initiated or adjusted to foster overall student success.”	“ Teachers will teach to the children, not to the test. ” “Effective schools minimize formal standardized exams which seldom reflect the actual student learning experience at each school and within each district.”	
		Catherine James	“Hillsborough County School District should create an environment where teachers have the opportunities to teach students based on what each student needs as an individual. We need to meet our students where they are and allow teachers to determine the strategies and teaching methods that they should use to help students be successful.”	“As a mom of an 11th grader ... I believe that we have too much testing in our schools.”	

Holmes	District 2	Wilburn Baker Won	No position on CCSS/FS found on FB or after internet search	No position found HST on FB or after internet search	
		Debbie Kolmetz (I)	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search	No position on HST found after internet search	
	Superintendent	Janis Lee Johnson – DEM	“The curriculum in Florida has changed in recent years. It is now based on the Florida Standards which were uniquely designed & developed for Florida students...” [This is completely untrue .]	No position on HST found after internet search	
		Terry Mears – REP Won	“ Common Core needs to be repealed! It is the “Obama Care” of Education.”	“We in Holmes County will utilize instructional strategies and pacing guides that ensure success for our students when taking the Florida Standards Assessments and EOCs.”	
Jackson	District 2	Gina Kent McAllister	No position found on CCSS/FS in this interview or after internet search	“There is a lot of pressure on our teachers to teach to a test .”	
		Tony Pumphrey Won	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search	No position on HST found after internet search	
Jefferson	Superintendent	Marianne Arbulu – REP Won	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search	No position on HST found after internet search	
		Glover Jones – NPA	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search	No position on HST found after internet search	
		Kelvin Lionel Norton – DEM	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search	No position on HST found after internet search	
Lake	District 2	Kristi Lee Burns Won	“We, in Lake, can have a say in how the state dictates how the children in OUR community are educated with common core...We can work with our local legislators and other state legislators to create coalitions that help bring down these bad standards ...”	“We must be fiscally responsible, well-rounded including recess, and have less Common Core tests ” “Every test is NOT bad. I taught too. A well designed test, created by a teacher and graded by a teacher is critical to proper education. The tests discussed here are SAT-style tests given to children as young as 8 years old.” “ Common core tests are age inappropriate .”	
		Sandra Wells Moore	No position found on CCSS/FS on website or after internet search.	No position found on HST found on website or after internet search	
	District 4	Sandy Gamble Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search – has no FB or website.	No position found on HST after internet search – has no FB or website.	
		James Andrew Myers	No position found on CCSS/FS on website or after internet search	“At the same time, however, we need to improve our teacher evaluation process to ensure the “effective” and “highly effective” ratings mean what they say. The first step toward doing so is to eliminate the use of student test scores as a measurement of teacher effectiveness altogether.”	

Lee	District 2	Jeanne Dozier (I)	"We are in the process of writing our own standards which will demonstrate student growth and mastery in all subjects."	"As a Board we need to continue to educate the Legislature as to the problems with so much mandated testing . We want to be held accountable but these high stakes test are not in the best interest of all students."	
		Melisa Giovannelli Won	" I oppose high stakes testing, Common Core , wasteful spending and Raising Taxes! "	" I oppose high stakes testing, Common Core , wasteful spending and Raising Taxes!"	
	District 6 At Large	Don Armstrong	" I oppose common core , since it lacks common sense."	"Teaching is not testing. I do NOT support High Stakes testing "	
		Jane Kuckel Won	When asked her position on CCSS, she stated , "The District is in the process of creating Lee County academic standards."	"Let's focus the school curriculum on skills for future careers rather than tests! "	
	District 7 At Large	Cathleen Morgan Won	"The Florida standards are derived from national and international comparisons of student proficiency in critical content areas." [Does not or will not recognize that Florida Standards = Common Core]	"While I do not support the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test as designed and implemented, I do support formative assessment as a teaching and learning tool for students and teachers. In order for the public, students, parents, teachers and administrators to trust in the fairness of statewide assessments and standards, the Florida Accountability system should be demonstrated to be internally aligned and consistent, a reliable and objective measurement of skills and knowledge, abilities, attitudes, personality traits, and educational achievement."	" Embrace and monitor data , even when the information is negative, and use it to drive continuous improvement." Sent campaign emails to district employees against policy. "...the Florida Accountability system should be...a reliable and objective measurement of... attitudes, personality traits ..." (Emphasis added).
		Chris Quackenbush	Opposes - "End Common Core with its crazy math and upside down history, restore cursive writing"	Opposes - "Increase time for learning by ending useless tests used only to grade teachers"	"Another priority would be to restore local control and end unfunded federal and state mandates."
Leon	Superintendent	Rocky Hanna – NPA Won	No position found on CCSS on website or after internet search.	" Test scores cannot be the sole focus of our kids' education."	"We must give teachers back the autonomy to make the decisions that best fit the needs of their students."
		Jackie Pons (I) – DEM	Supports – "As a constitutional officer I must implement the Standards that are approved by the State Board of Education."	"In this age of hyper accountability, we must protect our students from over testing . For too long, there has been too much pressure on our students to perform on these high stakes state assessments" ""We do have to follow state guidelines... because we need the funding ."	Wants to " Lead a Statewide Anti-Bullying Campaign " despite constitutional issues

		Patricia Ann Sunday – NPA	“ I want to put CURSIVE WRITING back in school. I want to know that our children have not forgotten how to memorize multiplication tables and to read phonetically with comprehension. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND HAS LEFT MULTITUDES OF CHILDREN BEHIND.”	“...to insure our children have a firm foundation to build on with less testing and more learning...”	Supports legalizing marijuana 20 grams and under on school campus.
		Forrest Van Camp – REP	“He wants to remove common core from Leon County schools”	“... wants districts to have more control [over testing]. He says the state and federal government should set the rules, then get out of the way.”	Stand firm that all students will use the bathroom/shower facilities based on gender at birth . Accommodations can and will be made for special needs.
Madison	Superintendent	Marcus Hawkins, Sr. – DEM	No position found on CCSS/FS on FB or after internet search.	No position found on HST on FB or after internet search.	
		Gwendolyn Hubbard – NPA	No position found on CCSS/FS on FB or after internet search.	No position found on HST on FB or after internet search.	
		Karen Pickles – REP Won	No position found on CCSS/FS after internet search.	No position found on HST after internet search.	
		Jeffrey Villieux – NPA	“What reaches children? just teaching a set of standards and ideas doesn't do the trick . Kids and adults need meaningful learning. I believe they need to learn by doing.”	No position found on high stakes testing on FB or after internet search.	
Manatee	District 1	Gina Messenger Won	I am not in support of our national government stepping over what is constitutionally our state’s right.	I believe we could use less tests , and use them in a smarter way, so that we use them to improve our students learning, not pass or fail them with it.	I would prefer data to not be collected or shared through data systems. I would prefer that data to be used by teachers and parents to improve our students’ education.
		Edward Viltz	“... it is still work in process and should be used as an indicator, not a final report.”	“ There are benefits to standardized testing, however mandating norm-referenced standards testing for every student every year in every subject to high school must change.”	Student privacy is paramount . Data sharing through privately owned systems is one more opportunity for student data to be compromised or used inappropriately.

	District 3	Dave Miner (I) Won	<p>“We need consistent national and statewide standards, but Common Core is not the answer to that. Unfortunately, Common Core got off to a very bad start. The rules kept changing and it became a wounded target” - Forum 00:16</p>	<p>“It [Common Core] created an obsession with testing. The purpose of testing is to determine what a child needs to be learning, what they haven’t learned. It’s now become an issue of assessment and ranking. Every child is assessed and ranked in every subject from third grade through high school...More importantly, you’ve got an environment where teachers are being forced into teaching to the test, at the expense of teaching in the classroom.”</p>	
		Misty Martin Servia	<p>“We need standards, but most importantly, we need flexibility in teaching the standards, and this control should be at the local level”</p>	<p>“High-stakes standardized testing needs to be replaced and we should consider alternatives such as, portfolio assessments, stealth assessments, and computer adaptive testing.”</p>	<p>“The student’s identity should be redacted from any privately owned data system. We cannot compromise student and family personal data.”</p>
Martin	District 5	Michael DiTerlizzi (I) Won	<p>“The good news is Common Core will probably be gone soon...I’m not a fan of Common Core. I’m not a fan of the federal government coming in and telling schools what to do. Panel 11:10</p>		<p>“I think Martin County or any school district is better controlled on the local level. And we should be deciding, as we do here in Martin County, what curriculum, what things we want our students to read and see and hear and look at...” 11:36</p>
		Larry Green	<p>Believes the Florida Standards with 99 changes are significantly different - “We now have the Florida Standards... I support the Florida Standards as they are taught today...The Florida standards is not all that great a change from Common Core, but it is a slight improvement.” - Panel 8:43</p>	<p>“Advocate for Less Standardized Testing - Larry is the only candidate to travel to Tallahassee to advocate for our students and staff to decrease the amount of testing... I will continue to fight and lobby our legislators to minimize testing, as well as make sure that the standardized test that is used is a fair and valid instrument to measure student achievement.”</p>	
Miami-Dade	District 1	Steve Gallon, III Won	<p>Does not mention CCSS/FS on website and no position on CCSS was found after an internet search</p>	<p>“The over testing of students should be addressed at both the local and state level.” HST is only obliquely mentioned via this essay on value added measurement for teacher evaluations and how Gallon operated differently as an administrator.</p>	<p>“New Jersey authorities banned educator Steve Gallon III from working in their public schools. Five months later, three South Florida charter schools welcomed him.</p>

		<p>Wilbert "Tee" Holloway (I)</p>	<p>Refused interview here. Multiple public schools controlled by the board on which he serves have statements similar to this in handbooks: "All recommendations or decisions made by the EESAC shall be consistent with the State vocational/business standards, pertinent Academy curricula, and the Common Core Standards strands and benchmarks, to ensure continuity, alignment, and achievement."</p>	<p>No position found on HST after internet search.</p>	
	<p>District 6</p>	<p>Modesto Abety</p>	<p>Spoke generally here of "Achievement: focusing resources on student achievement, setting high standards, a rigorous curriculum..."</p>	<p>"Abety has promised to... advocate for less high-stakes standardized testing in schools."</p>	<p>"Abety has promised to expand early childhood education programs, increase recess time, improve teacher pay..."</p>
		<p>Maria Teresa Rojas Won</p>	<p>Did not respond to multiple requests for interviews and no position on CCSS/FS was found after internet search, including FB.</p>	<p>Did not respond to multiple requests for interviews and no position on testing was found after internet search, including FB.</p>	<p>"...Pledged to improve school safety, expand special needs and early childhood education programs, and increase support for school counselors to help identify and mentor at-risk youth." From Herald endorsement of her opponent - Maria Teresa Rojas, 62, a retired educator. Her name surfaced when nephew Carlos J. Gimenez — son of the county mayor — apparently tried to bully her opponents out of the race. She refused to discuss it with the Editorial Board, which does not say much for her willingness to operate in a transparent manner if elected.</p>

Nassau	Superintendent	Kathy Burns – REP Won	<p>“I do not support Common Core. Like most parents, teachers, and students, I have real problems with Common Core Standards and practices.</p> <p>I also want to make it very clear that Common Core was adopted into law by our state legislature, not the Nassau County School Board. School districts had no choice except to implement the will of the legislature. So when you hear someone proclaim they are going to “stop common core,” they are being misleading.” [The state board of education adopted CCSS in August of 2010]</p>	<p>“Testing data provides valuable information about students’ academic achievement and is an effective tool for improving instruction. However, test fatigue resulting from over testing can have a negative impact on student achievement. Quality instructional time is essential.”</p>	<p>“Burns said that for reasons of safety, she believed that girls should use girls’ bathrooms and boys should use boys’ bathrooms.”</p>
		Cheryl Reynolds James – LPF	No campaign website or FB page found. Did not attend major debate .	No campaign website or FB page found. Did not attend major debate .	The moderator asked a question regarding the rumors circulating that Libertarian candidate Cheryl James had been put up to run by one of the other candidates to insure that the election would be decided in the Republican Primary.
Okeechobee	District 4	Amanda Fuchswanz Won	No position on CCSS found after internet search, including FB page.	May have concerns about HST because she shared a link about the initial parent victory in the third grade retention lawsuit. No other position on HST found after internet search.	“I believe in hard work and value logical thinking, constructive communication and sound financial decisions.”
		Levi Johnson	“I absolutely hate it [Common Core math] , but the truth lies that the board doesn't have the power to opt out of it.”	“...the most important issue facing the Okeechobee County School District is the Florida Standards Assessment testing . “It doesn’t take a genius with college degrees to realize it is an inaccurate method of testing the students’ knowledge and ability. It’s also an inaccurate method to base merit pay for the teachers, which should be evaluated by the administrators,” he explained. “The students are being over tested to the point they lose interest in learning which leads to lower student achievement and a low graduation rate.”	

Orange	District 7	Matthew Fitzpatrick	"I vehemently oppose Common Core because of the inherent destructive nature of a test-driven education."	" Tests should be used for diagnostic purposes to find out what students need help, and what those students need help with. We need less testing...less benchmark testing, less high-stakes testing. Schools lose close to 2 months of instructional time due to testing."	" Student data should be private , between the student, parent, and school."
		Christine Moore (I) Won	No position found on CCSS on website . "I support rigorous state standards . As teachers master these state standards and collaboratively develop content-rich lesson plans, our students will benefit."	" Less state testing, more time on instruction "	"I will continue to advocate for more local control , accountability and policies which keep funding in the classrooms."
Palm Beach	District 1	Barbara McQuinn Won	No position on CCSS/FS found on website or FB or after internet search.	No position on HST found on website or FB or after internet search.	"I support age appropriate , medically accurate and inclusive comprehensive sex education in grades K-12. Parents do have the choice for their children to opt out of the lessons."
		Tom Sutterfield	No position on CCSS/FS found on website or FB or after internet search.	No position on HST found on website or FB or after internet search.	
Pinellas	District 1 At Large	Joanne Lentino Won	"Successful Implementation of the Florida Standards" was fifth out of five priorities when asked . She is much more oriented toward social emotional issues in the schools	"Our students are taking too many standardized tests . We need to end high stakes testing and put the focus back on learning in the classroom."	From website - "Invest in Early Childhood Education" "Let's stand tall with our stakeholders and explore the Community School model. Connecting wrap around services such as health, social supports and expanding learning opportunities"
		Matt Stewart	"Successful implementation of Florida Standards" was first on this same list when asked . He went on to say: "The Florida Standards reflect what each student should know and be able to do at each grade level, from kindergarten through 12 th grade. The goal is to prepare students to succeed in college, career, and life. This item is at the core of our schools, student learning."	"Yes, I fully support decreasing the amount of district level testing . Our children spend too much time taking tests, preparing for tests, and learning test taking strategies. All of this takes away from valuable instructional time. Additionally, it causes anxiety and stress in our students."	

	District 5	Carol Cook (I) Won	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search.	Answered yes to question from Tampa Bay Times debate question – “Should students be allowed to opt out of standardized testing?”	
		Eliseo Santana	“Against ‘Common Core’”	Answered yes to question from Tampa Bay Times debate question – “Should students be allowed to opt out of standardized testing?”	“...greater emphasis on early child development programs” “Development of solutions to encourage/increase involvement of all guardians/parents.”
Polk	District 1	Hunt Berryman (I)	“I support the learning standards that were originally developed by state leaders from across the country, but not intrusion from the federal government at the end of the process.”	Wants to create a “testing task force”	Wants to expand government early childhood programs
		William Lambert Townsend Won	“I support a much reduced collection of standards. We teach too many.”	“Less testing. One annual test should focus strictly on reading and math... Other assessments should be strictly used to track student progress by school officials. They should not be punitive or used to evaluate teachers.”	“Oppose it [data collection] on its face. Willing listen to arguments.”
	District 4	Sara Beth Reynolds Won	No position found on CCSS after internet search of website and FB – failed to complete several questionnaires that opponents did.	No position found on HST after internet search of website and FB – failed to complete several questionnaires that opponents did.	
		Rebecca Troutman	“I do support standards in education. I was a classroom teacher when standards were not in place and I saw, firsthand, the damage that can be done when common standards are not embraced as the basis for classroom practices.”	I feel we need to reduce testing... Assessment should guide instruction and provide information about student performance.	The “sharing” of student data is protected. Maintaining student data is a necessity
Putnam	Superintendent	Phyllis Criswell (I) – REP	Opposes Common Core & believes “standards become the teachers’ curriculum and that’s what they’re expected to teach.”	“...like to see the state change from the FSA to just using the ACT and SAT as the test students must pass in order to graduate.”	
		Rick Surrency – DEM Won	Doesn’t support Common Core but “is in favor of keeping the Florida State Standards and wants to provide a curriculum that meets students’ needs while also following the standards.” [Doesn’t understand CCSS & FS are the same.]	Profile says nothing about his views on testing.	
Sumter	Superintendent	Preston Morgan – NPA	No position found on CCSS after internet search	No position found on HST after internet search	

		Richard Shirley (I) – REP Won	Not a statement on CCSS/FS, but on academic basics – Supports “stressing basic academic skills (i.e. reading, writing, mathematics) over social programs (i.e. health care issues, social engineering, values clarification issues, etc.)”	No position found on HST after internet search	“...we add resources based on academic and behavioral data .” “Regardless of the guidelines distributed by the over-reaching feds, as superintendent I won’t allow transgender students to take overnight trips staying in the same rooms with students of different genders. There are other options that will protect children’s rights and not put any child at risk on a trip or in a bathroom.”
Suwannee	Superintendent	Ted Roush – REP Won	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search - Candidate had no website or FB page	No position on HST found after internet search - Candidate had no website or FB page	
		Julie Ulmer – DEM	No position on CCSS/FS found on FB , website , or after internet search	No position on HST found on FB , website , or after internet search	
		Dianne Westcott – IND	“When it [Common Core] first came in, it was an absolute good idea based on solid research. The problem is, we let the government touch it. When they started touching it, you shouldn’t let government interfere with education,” she said.	No position on HST found after internet search - Candidate had no website or FB page.	“We need to look at our middle school population and really get them involved in some of our academies and career and technical programs that we have at the high school to get them engaged”
Taylor	District 3	Valena Reed Driggers	No position on CCSS/FS found after internet search - Candidate had no website or FB page	No position on HST found after internet search - Candidate had no website or FB page	
		Jeanne Ellen Mathis Won	From Goals on FB – “Review data and rework or replace every single program that is failing to meet and/or exceed state standards”	No position on HST found on FB or after internet search	“Pre-k and Head Start are part of the school budget, the students are part of our enrollment. Additionally, these classes are full to overflowing and need to be expanded .”
	Superintendent	Danny Glover, Jr. – DEM Won	No position found on CCSS/FS on FB or after internet search – candidate has no website	No position found on HST on FB or after internet search – candidate has no website	

		Daryll Thomas Gunter – REP	However, our schools are not what they once were. Lack of discipline, an ineffective curriculum ...have led us to place 67 out of 67 in the state for graduation and 56th in the state overall for quality of education	“...over-testing on the district level”	
Union	District 2	Russell Gordon, Jr. Won	No position found on CCSS/FS on FB or after internet search – candidate has no website	No position found on HST on FB or after internet search – candidate has no website	
		Randall Griffis	No position found CCSS/FS after internet search – candidate has no website or campaign FB page	No position found on HST after internet search – candidate has no website or campaign FB page	
Walton	Superintendent	Michael Davis – NPA	“I believe in preparing Walton County students for today's workforce through college and/or career technical education. ”	No position found on HST on website or FB after internet search	“...open communication and meaningful opportunities for involvement for parents while depositing knowledge with skill to equip our students to be investments for stakeholders and businesses in our area.”
		A. Russell Hughes – REP Won	Top Issue - Educational excellence—including post-secondary and career opportunities for students.	Major concern – “Over-testing and assessing students”	Major concern – “Deciphering and determining best response to legislative mandates.”
Washington	District 2	Linda Lou Cleveland Won	“I co-wrote and administered a \$500,000 grant with the Florida Dept. of Education for training teachers on the CPALMS site which prepares teachers to teach to the new Florida Standards [CCSS].” Interview 13:37	No position on HST found after internet search - Candidate had no website or FB page. No discussion of HST in this interview .	
		Travis Mask	“In the form it's in now, I don't agree with the Common Core and I will fight against it. I will write the legislators. I will write the governor. I will call. I will do anything in my power to get it changed from the form it's in now.” Interview at 29:02	Interview 28:34 “It may be a weighted test, but for it to determine whether a kid passes or fails shouldn't be an option. Whether it gives the teachers a raise or not shouldn't be an option.” Also discussed high cost of computerized testing at 22:38 .	

(I) = Incumbent

For Superintendent Races:

DEM = Democrat

IND = Independent

LPF = Libertarian

NPA = No Party Affiliation

REP = Republican

WRI = Write-In

Other Abbreviations:

CCSS = Common Core State [sic] Standards

FB = Facebook

FS = Florida Standards

HST = High Stakes Testing

SEL = Social Emotional Learning

Of the Winners in these 57 Races:

29 (51%) Opposed CCSS, HST, or both

4/29 (14%) had statements opposing Common Core

11/29 (38%) had statements indicating opposition to high stakes testing or the number of tests

14/29 (48%) had statements opposing both CCSS and HST or the number of tests

8 (14%) Supported CCSS, HST, or both

20 (35%) Had No Position on CCSS or HST (able to be found after internet search or listening to forum/interview)