



August 28, 2013

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The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor  
State of Florida  
The Capitol – Plaza Level 5  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Education Accountability Summit

Dear Governor Scott:

The Florida Council of 100 offers its sincerest thanks for convening the Education Accountability Summit this week in Clearwater. The diversity of representation at the meetings was truly historic and enabled deep, thoughtful discussions about the key K-12 education issues facing Florida at this time.

We especially appreciate your inclusion of the business community at the table since the availability of a highly skilled workforce is the primary determinant of the success of the state's economy. As you know, Florida must have top-notch Talent & Education systems if it wants to be able to compete nationally and internationally at the highest levels.

From my participation in the Summit, I believe that there was strong support for the idea that career and college readiness for Florida's students is being enhanced by our implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Equally, the right Florida assessment tool is necessary to ensure that our investment in our students is effective and is clearly understood by students, parents, teachers, and administrators. The Summit process allowed the participants to create guiding principles which I believe, along with Florida's national position as a leader in education excellence, can empower the Department of Education to challenge both national consortia such as PARCC and other assessment methods to deliver a Florida assessment that meets Florida's standards. That being said, any such assessment must:

- Strictly align with the Common Core Standards;
- Be comprehensive in scope so as to regularly assess performance on all standards;
- Generate valid and reliable results in a timely manner;



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- Be clear to the student and provide a well-defined path for both student and teacher improvement;
- Protect the privacy of student data; and
- Enable comparisons of Florida student performance with student performance in as many other states as possible, especially those that typically score highly on the NAEP.

Again, I thank you for your leadership and encourage you to build on the Summit's guiding principles for career and college readiness through the Common Core State Standards with a challenge and support for the Department of Education to gain an assessment program that meets our high expectations.

Respectfully,

**Marshall Criser, III**  
Chairman

cc: Mr. Gary Chartrand, Chair, State Board of Education  
Mr. John Padgett, Vice Chair, State Board of Education  
Dr. Ada Armas, Member, State Board of Education  
Mrs. Sally Bradshaw, Member, State Board of Education  
Mr. John Colon, Member, State Board of Education  
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