



August 28, 2013

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Florida Senate
212 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Will Weatherford
Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

RE: Common Core Standards and Assessments

Dear President Gaetz and Speaker Weatherford:

From my participation in the recent Education Accountability 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, and I believe as you have expressed, 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.

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