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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Florida Council of 100 thanks Governor Scott for convening Education Accountability Summit; Issues position statements

TAMPA, Fla. (August 28, 2013) – Today, the Florida Council of 100 released the following statement from Chairman Marshall Criser, III, regarding the Education Accountability Summit:

“The Florida Council of 100 offers Governor Scott 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 the 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. Florida must have top-notch Talent & Education systems if it wants to be able to compete nationally and internationally at the highest levels.”

After participating in all of the Summit activities this week, the Council of 100 issues the following policy positions based on the Summit’s work:

Standards

Florida should adopt standards that best prepare students for college and career success. That means standards that focus on critical and analytical thinking and that “include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills.” The standards must also ensure that our students can effectively compete with their national and international peers and thus must be research- and evidenced-based. In short, the Council of 100 calls on state leaders to reaffirm the state’s adoption of the Common Core State Standards as the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and complete the roll-out of those standards on schedule this school year.

Assessments

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, along with



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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;
- 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.

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Formed in 1961, the Florida Council of 100 is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of business, civic, and academic leaders, which exists to promote the economic growth of Florida and a high quality of life for its citizens. Visit www.fc100.org for more information.