

# FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC

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## 2014 FSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### *PRIORITIES FOR THE 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION*

The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) calls for the Legislature to support a high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education by pursuing the following priorities:

- ✧ Ensure that the adoption and implementation of Common Core State Standards:
  - Provide for the transition to new assessments that are affordable, valid and reliable, and nationally normed and are fully implemented no sooner than July 1, 2017;
  - Provide for students, teachers, schools, and districts to be held harmless during the transition period;
  - Provide for the implementation of teacher and principal evaluations and the performance pay salary schedule to be delayed until after the transition to the new assessments and the establishment of baseline results;
- ✧ Revise Florida's assessment and accountability system to:
  - Ensure that ELL students are served for at least two years in ESOL programs before their performance is included in the calculation of school and district grades;
  - Authorize alternate methods for assessing learning and achievement for special populations, such as populations of students enrolled in ESE and ESOL programs, to ensure that student progress is accurately measured and reflected;
  - Remove ESE Center schools from the school grade portion of the state accountability system;
  - Include data from multiple forms of assessment and limited standardized testing;
  - Ensure that the development of assessment instruments is fully funded by the state;
- ✧ Appropriate sufficient funding, in addition to the FEFP, that will fully fund technology needs, including funds necessary for infrastructure, hardware, software, training, online testing, virtual instruction, digital textbooks, data management, and other technology needs;
- ✧ Repeal the 2013 requirement that school districts pay college tuition fees, fully fund the school district costs to provide dual enrollment programs, and maintain the current delivery system that allows local school districts and community colleges to offer adult education programs;
- ✧ Establish an additional standard high school diploma for special needs students who cannot pass statewide assessments required for graduation, but can demonstrate achievement of basic skills and revise current graduation regulations to include the special diploma students as graduates in the four year rate;
- ✧ Restore the authority for school boards to levy, by simple majority vote and without a referendum, up to an additional .50 mills for either critical operating needs or capital outlay needs, or to be split between both.