



## OFFICE OF MAYOR LENNY CURRY

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May 16, 2018

The Honorable Anna Lopez Brosche  
Council President, Jacksonville City Council  
City Hall at St. James  
117 West Duval Street, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Council President Brosche,

Last week, without notice and in the course of a single evening, City Council advanced a resolution voicing support for criticism of a Florida Board of Education policy that was years in the making.

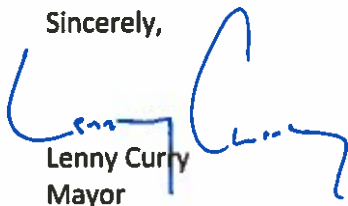
Without any testimony from those who have proposed standardized testing changes, and based on the testimony of one local school board member, the Council affirmed language that seems to imply such changes are actually meant to harm young people.

When I received this legislation the next day, I asked my staff to research the issue and talk to proponents and opponents alike. I sought and have received much information.

As a result of the work, and a belief that the Florida BOE is appropriately working to ensure that in future years all students strive for an even higher level of achievement, I am returning Resolution 2018-332 to you without my signature.

As a parent with three children in Duval County Public Schools, I appreciate the work of our teachers, the Superintendent and board members. I hope that they will continue to rise to the challenge of making certain our children are prepared to succeed in a global community that is ever-changing.

Sincerely,



Lenny Curry  
Mayor

1 Introduced by Council Members R. Brown, Anderson, Becton, Bowman,  
2 Boyer, Brosche, K. Brown, Carter, Crescimbeni, Dennis, Ferraro,  
3 Gaffney, Gulliford, Hazouri, Love, Morgan, Newby and Wilson and  
4 amended on the Floor of Council:  
5  
6

7 **RESOLUTION 2018-332-A**

8 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSALS BY THE FLORIDA  
9 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER RULE 6A-1.09422,  
10 FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, TO INCREASE THE  
11 CONCORDANT SCORES ON CERTAIN STANDARDIZED  
12 TESTS AND ELIMINATING THE POSTSECONDARY  
13 EDUCATION READINESS TEST (PERT) AS A  
14 CONCORDANT ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORTING THE DUVAL  
15 COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION 2017-04 IN  
16 RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN GRADUATION  
17 REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING THE INCREASE IN  
18 CONCORDANT SCORES; DIRECTING THE CHIEF OF  
19 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE  
20 RESOLUTION TO THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD,  
21 THE DUVAL DELEGATION, THE FLORIDA BOARD OF  
22 EDUCATION AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
23 EDUCATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the City of Jacksonville is committed to the success  
26 of each Duval County student and desires to prepare each child for  
27 success in college or to further their career opportunities; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Education is considering proposals  
29 to changes in graduation requirements pursuant to Rule 6A-1.09422,  
30 Florida Administrative Code; and

31 **WHEREAS**, such proposals have included increasing concordant

1 scores on the SAT and the ACT and eliminating the Postsecondary  
2 Education Readiness Test (PERT) (as an alternate for students who  
3 fail Algebra I end of year exam) as a concordant assessment for  
4 attainment on the Florida Standards Assessment as an alternative  
5 assessment; and

6       **WHEREAS**, the Duval County School Board, through Resolution  
7 2017-4, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and  
8 incorporated by reference herein, opposes the proposed changes to  
9 graduation requirements including the increasing of standardized  
10 test scores for the SAT and ACT and the elimination of the PERT as  
11 a concordant assessment for attaining a high school diploma; and

12       **WHEREAS**, the Council is in agreement with the Duval County  
13 School Board on proposed changes to the graduation requirements and  
14 desires to convey its opposition of such changes to the Florida  
15 Board of Education, the Duval Delegation and the Florida Department  
16 of Education; now therefore

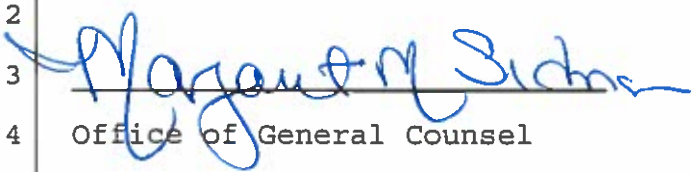
17       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

18       **Section 1.**       The City Council strongly supports Duval  
19 County School Board Resolution 2017-04, attached hereto as **Exhibit**  
20 **1**, and opposes the changes in the graduation requirements  
21 referenced in Duval County School Board Resolution 2017-04,  
22 including increasing concordant scores for attainment on the  
23 Florida Standards Assessment or alternative assessments.

24       **Section 2.**       **Direction to Chief of Legislative Services.**  
25 The Chief of Legislative Services for the City Council is hereby  
26 directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the Duval County  
27 School Board, the Duval Delegation, the Florida Board of Education  
28 and the Florida Department of Education.

29       **Section 3.**       **Effective Date.**       That this Resolution shall  
30 become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming  
31 effective without the Mayor's signature.

1 Form Approved:

2  
3  Margaret M. Sider

4 Office of General Counsel

5 Legislation Prepared By: Paige H. Johnston

6 GC-#1209003-v1-2018-332-A\_.doc

**RESOLUTION 2017-04**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONCORDANT SCORES**

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Duval County, Florida (the "School Board"), consisting of seven elected Florida Constitutional Officers, is the governing body for the School District of Duval County, Florida (the "district"); and

**WHEREAS**, the district is the twentieth largest school district in the nation and the sixth largest school district in Florida. A district that has been recognized by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) as being a leader in mathematics and reading outcomes, with the district's fourth grade students placing No. 1 among the national rankings in mathematics. A district whose performance on FSA currently has the district ranked as a 'B' for a second consecutive year, and only 24 points (3 percentage points) from an 'A' in the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) accountability system. Finally, a district whose graduation rate is currently at a record high of 80.8%, growing 13.1 percentage points since 2011-2012, along with current record highs for all subgroups monitored by the FDOE; and

**WHEREAS**, the adopted vision for Duval County Public Schools is "Every student is inspired and prepared for success in college or a career and life"; and

**WHEREAS**, the attainment of a high school degree remains of paramount importance including ensuring that each student, regardless of his/her background, has an equal opportunity for degree attainment and success in college or a career and life; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing concordant scores on the SAT or ACT and eliminating the PERT as a concordant assessment will misalign the expectations for attainment on the Florida Standards Assessment and the alternative assessments, and

**WHEREAS**, multiple pathways to earning a high school diploma are essential to delivering a customized, student-centered education to each Duval County student, and

**WHEREAS**, increasing concordant scores on the SAT or ACT and eliminating the PERT as a concordant assessment is projected to cause a decline in Duval County Public Schools graduation rates of between 7 and 11% and is projected to impact students attending Title I schools in a disparate manner with possible graduation rate declines projected at between 12% and 30% at schools with high levels of poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant decline in graduation rates will harm the lifetime earnings of students who receive a certificate of completion and the economy of Jacksonville; Duval County Public Schools estimates that adopting the proposed changes will affect 850 more students per year who are anticipated to no longer receive their high school diploma. Median earnings which would have been \$37,024 as a high school graduate being reduced to \$27,040 as a non-graduate. Over a 30-year span this equates to over \$250,000,000 in lost potential earnings and taxable income for the local economy after just one graduation cohort. The compounded effect of this after multiple cohorts could be devastating; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing concordant scores on the SAT or ACT and eliminating the PERT as a concordant assessment will result in students completing high school with workforce ready certifications conferred by the State of Florida and unable to meet the assessment requirement, therefore not receiving a high school diploma resulting in their ineligibility for hire at companies seeking their workforce ready skills; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing concordant scores on the SAT or ACT and eliminating the PERT as a concordant assessment will cause students and the district to pay excessive costs associated with the ACT or SAT for an Algebra I EOC concordant score, in lieu of the extremely cost-efficient PERT assessment therefore causing an inequitable burden in districts with significant numbers of students living near or below the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, the PERT continues to be used as a qualifier for dual enrollment courses for which students receive college credit; and

**WHEREAS**, delaying the implementation of increased concordant scores on the SAT or ACT and eliminating the PERT as a concordant assessment likely will only delay the ill effects for students and the Jacksonville economy, not change the effects; and

**WHEREAS**, allowing students who attend private schools on tax funded vouchers to be exempt from these requirements creates a separate and unequal publicly funded educational system for children; and

**WHEREAS**, since June 12, 2017, several proposals under Rule 6A-1.09422 have been brought to the public regarding potential changes in graduation requirements by the Florida Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with the School Board's paramount concern for all students throughout the district to have the appropriate opportunities to complete their high school diploma, the School Board desires to memorialize its position regarding the proposed changes contained in Rule 6A-1.09422.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the School Board adopts the following resolutions in support of graduation rate changes:

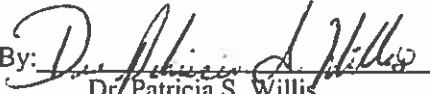
1. The School Board supports high standards and high expectations for students that are equitable among all students:
2. The School Board supports keeping graduation requirements, including concordant scores, constant in the State of Florida.
3. The School Board shall post this resolution with the minutes of the May 1, 2018 School Board meeting, and shall deliver a copy of this resolution to the following:
  - a. Commissioner Pam Stewart
  - b. All Members of the Florida Board of Education
  - c. The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor
  - d. The Honorable Joe Negron, Senate President
  - e. The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Speaker of the House
  - f. All Florida Legislators
  - g. All Florida Public School Board Chairpersons
  - h. The Honorable Lenny Curry, Jacksonville Mayor
  - i. The Honorable Anna Lopez Broche, Jacksonville City Council President
  - j. All Jacksonville City Council Members
  - k. Bob Gramming, Chairperson of the Florida Chamber
  - l. The Honorable John Peyton, Chairperson of the JAXChamber
  - m. Maryann Ferenc, Chairperson of Visit Florida
  - n. William Prescott, Chairman of Visit Jacksonville

*[Signature Page to Resolution 2017-04:  
A Resolution of the School Board of Duval County, Florida,  
Regarding Proposed Changes to Concordant Scores  
Adopted May 1, 2018]*

ADOPTED, on May 1, 2018, in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, by the School Board of Duval County, Florida

ATTEST:

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

By:   
Dr. Patricia S. Willis,  
Superintendent of Schools  
and Ex-Officio Secretary  
to the Board

By:   
Paula D. Wright, Chairman

RESOLUTION 2018-332-A  
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION  
DECLARED AN EMERGENCY MEASURE AND  
ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL

May 8, 2018



AARON BOWMAN  
ACTING-COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_



DR. CHERYL L. BROWN  
COUNCIL SECRETARY

LENNY CURRY, MAYOR

