

From: Patricia Levesque (Patricia@afloridapromise.org) <patricia@afloridapromise.org>
Sent time: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:56:05 AM
To: Fudge, Jason (Jason.Fudge@myfloridahouse.gov) <Jason.Fudge@myfloridahouse.gov>; Klebacha, Theresa <Theresa.Klebacha@myfloridahouse.gov>; Ahearn, Marleen <Marleen.Ahearn@myfloridahouse.gov>
Cc: Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org) <Joanna@afloridapromise.org>; Lowell Mathews (Lowell@excelined.org) <Lowell@excelined.org>; Cooper, Tanya
Subject: FCAT - at least 50% language in DA bill

Hi all,

Copying you all on this email, because I'm not sure who is taking the lead right now on the DA bill. I also know this is really late timing, so'm just putting on your radar.

As you know Sen. Montford or the supt association – did not include the “at least 50%” language in the Senate version of the DA bill. They indicated that the department could not explain the issue to them when they were discussing the bill. They were also concerned that there was no upper limit.

We have met with Scott Howat, Joy Frank and Mike O'Farrell in order to help them understand that the entire purpose of the “at least 50%” language was to give flexibility for the DOE to do simple, clean, mathematical calculations on the “other” side of the high school grade calculation.

Scott completely gets the issue and asked for “comfort” language so that in the future with a different commissioner/state board of ed, the FCAT part of the high school grade does not go up to 90% of the high school's grade. I told Scott that was not our intent, that we believe that the other factors: grad rates, etc. are important.

So, they are asking for the following which, the Foundation completely supports: FCAT shall be “at least 50%, but no more than 60%” of a high school's grade.

We have done a few scenarios of when social studies EOC gets added to the other side, if the acceleration components are reduced to 100 pts each, etc. The most that the FCAT portion of the high school calculation would be is 57%. So we fully support the request by FADSS to change the language to at least 50%, but no more than 60%.

FADSS is also asking that this new “at least 50%, but no more than 60%” be started in the year that the social studies EOC becomes part of the high school grade calculation. I doft really know when this is, but they ask that the new language kick in in that school year. We are fine with this, if this also helps them convince Sen. Montford to include it in the Senate version of the DA bill.

Just wanted you all to know. Happy to answer any questions you may have.

Patricia