



CENTRAL FLORIDA PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS COALITION

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Purpose: To address public educational issues impacting Central Florida
Representing 1,000,000 Florida students and their families.



School grades to be released during week beginning July 10, 2016

Chairman Dave "Watchdog" Miner of the Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition urges caution to consider the 2015-2016 as the baseline year for school grades



July 7, 2016 – School grade calculations as determined by the state using the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) will be released in the coming days. A vast majority of the representatives from the 13-district Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition -- which represents over one million students along the I-4 corridor -- encourage parents, students, and their communities to view the 2015-2016 results as a baseline year for school grade calculations. These school grades will reflect learning gains made by students which could not be captured from the 2014-2015 FSA as there were no previous, similar tests to use for comparison. It was noted in the release of the first year of FSA, that the grades were only partial, so any comparison to grades released next week would not be valid.



It is important for our community, especially our parents and students, to know that learning gains are now more difficult to attain. If school districts across the state see a decrease in school grades, it will likely be because of the new and complicated learning gains structure.



School districts across Central Florida believe the new calculation of learning gains implemented in this year's formula will result in school grade drops for many schools as compared to partial grades that were released last year. The learning gains calculation is complicated and confusing and should be further revised.



High schools will further be impacted because the 2015-2016 grades will not account for current students who successfully completed Algebra 1 in middle school. Also, the 2015-2016 high school grades are calculated using data from 2014-2015 in areas such as graduation rates and the number of students who take advanced coursework. These factors will not accurately depict the high schools' measure of success.



All the representatives contacted stated they stand firmly behind the hard work of their students, teachers, and administrators. Potentially lower grades will misrepresent what happens in our classrooms and in our school districts every day during the school year.



A vast majority of the districts in the Coalition expressed the need to continue to advocate for a more accurate and improved accountability system where schools are not simply labeled with a single letter grade.



For more information, contact Central Florida Public School Board Coalition, Chairman Dave "Watchdog" Miner, at minerd@manateeschools.net.



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