



everychild.one voice.

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The Florida PTA has a long and successful record of advocating for all children and public education.

We have long opposed the use of state or nationally mandated standardized tests as the sole criterion for measuring student progress or school performance. PTA believes that student assessments should identify how instruction and learning can be improved, be used to help parents and teachers determine specific academic needs of students and increase opportunities for student learning.

The unusual and challenging conditions that this national pandemic has created, requires the suspension of the accountability calculations derived from the scores, as we have no models to make judgments under the conditions of 2020-21.

Accountability for 2020-21 should focus on bringing supplemental instruction and services to students to compensate for the variations in learning experiences throughout Florida. This has been an extremely difficult year for our students, teachers, education personnel and families. Due to the pandemic, the delivery of education to our students has met with several barriers and many challenges, resulting in an uneven playing field, with many students unable to access a steady flow of knowledge.

HB 359/SB 886 will help alleviate the anxiety and stress of students, educators and families, by recognizing that in this time of public emergency, steps need to be taken to revise the law to accommodate the needs of all children.

We thank you for sponsoring HB 359/ SB 886, which would revise the current practice of using standardized tests as the sole criterion for promotion, retention, and graduation. We are pleased to support HB 359 and look forward to its passage.

Respectfully,



Jennifer Martinez
Florida PTA President