

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-32

Commitment to Eliminating Common Core, Ensuring High-Quality Academic Standards and Raising the Bar for Civic Literacy

*Recommendations for achieving  
The Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards in Florida*

By January 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Education shall comprehensively review Florida's Kindergarten through grade twelve academic standards and provide recommended revisions to the Governor. The recommendations shall:



A. Articulate how Florida will **eliminate Common Core** (Florida Standards) and ensure we return to the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic;

#### STEPS TAKEN:


- Renewed Florida's focus on content-rich English Language Arts (ELA) standards by prioritizing the basics of reading and writing and promoting civic literacy.
- Removed confusing math.
- Added secondary (grades 6-12) foundations for literacy to provide targeted instruction for students who struggle with reading.
- Placed reading at the core of the standards development process with an incorporated book list, the first in the nation to integrate from Kindergarten to 12th grade.
- Also a first in the nation, embedded civics throughout the K-12 B.E.S.T. Standards with a civics booklist that includes significant foundational American historical documents.
- Increased rigor by introducing rhetoric in 6th grade, giving students the opportunity to develop their reasoning, understanding of argumentative language, and writing skills.
- Placed an elevated focus on memorizing math facts so students aren't penalized for using the strategy that works best for them.
- Increased mastery by focusing on foundational computational skills in the early grade levels before they enter middle school to reinforce the basics of arithmetic.
- Developed Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards as a complete package – definitions, specific benchmarks, vertical and horizontal alignment, clarifications outlining expectations, applicable examples, increased readability, a glossary, and comprehensive appendices.
- Maintained or increased rigor while also paying attention to developmental alignment.



**B. Provide a roadmap** to make Florida's standards number one in the nation;

STEPS TAKEN:

- Created content-rich standards focused on classic literature framed by literary periods to enable students to learn and understand the full concepts of cause and effect, the progression of a story, and character development.
- Developed a clear progression of content from one grade to the next that is aligned from early learning to post-secondary education to continue increasing student knowledge and skills over time.
- Defined rigor as the product of maintaining high expectations for students and challenged every student with increasing complexity to increase their knowledge and skill over time. This ensures Florida students have a clear understanding of different pathways to success.
- Throughout the review process, there has been a conscious and deliberate effort to ensure high expectations are set for all of Florida's students.
- Created a plan for providing professional development to support educators in providing high-quality standards-based instruction. Integrated professional development will be a critical component of the new standards roll-out.



**C. Reflect the Commissioner's consultation with relevant stakeholders to include parents and teachers;**

STEPS TAKEN:

- Created a standards review process that was transparent and inclusive.
- Convened a subject-matter expert workgroup comprised of Florida teachers that have over 1,500 years of Florida combined education experience to review the Common Core standards.
- Engaged more than 80 teacher organizations and stakeholder groups in the standards review and revision process.
- Created an interactive website where over 100,000 standards were reviewed by the public, teachers, students and parents.
- Hosted 154 virtual and 11 face-to-face expert group meetings.
- Held 9 public Florida Standards Listening Tour meetings where Floridians had the opportunity to offer public input to department staff on the second draft of the ELA and Math standards.



D. Deem how to **increase the quality of instructional curriculum;**

STEPS TAKEN:


- Aligned Florida’s instructional materials adoption timeline with the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards implementation timeline to allow cost savings.
- The State Board of Education approved a rule change that requires publishers to submit, with their textbook bids, a “No Common Core & Common Core Standards” Assurance.



E. Suggest **innovative ways to streamline testing;**

STEPS TAKEN:

- Suggested streamlining certain graduation requirements to align with the SAT or ACT. 9
- Requiring all high school students take the Florida Civic Literacy Test. 9
- Developed a plan with the goal of reducing the total amount of time students spend on testing as 9 well as reduced the total questions on assessments.



F. Identify opportunities to **equip high school graduates with sufficient knowledge of America’s civics**, particularly the principles reflected in the United States Constitution, so as to be capable of discharging the responsibilities associated with American citizenship; and

STEPS TAKEN:

- Conducted a review of current civics education course instructional materials, end-of-course test item specifications and will include recommendations in the future social studies standards review.
- Developing a civic literacy examination for all high school seniors in Florida to take.
- Included a recommended civics reading list that integrates significant foundational historic American documents throughout Florida’s B.E.S.T. Standards beginning in Kindergarten. This booklist includes publications from most major literary periods and significant historical American documents crucial to ensuring American history and civics is integrated at every grade level.



## G. Outline a pathway for Florida to be the most literate state in the nation.

### STEPS TAKEN:

- Prioritized reading by finding every opportunity to build the foundation of early literacy skills.
- Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include a recommended reading list from most major literary periods and significant historical documents. Florida is the first state in the nation to incorporate a reading list into educational standards.
- Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards have explicit, systematic and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and text comprehension.
- Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include a recommended booklist for both civics education and literature, the only state in the nation to include two booklists in our standards.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Eliminate** Common Core from Florida's schools.
- **Adopt** Florida's B.E.S.T. ELA and Math Standards that bring education back to the basics by prioritizing reading, writing, arithmetic and civics, and provides parents, teachers and students a clear, concise and cohesive framework without the worries of conceptual confusion.
- **Conduct** an instructional materials adoption process that will yield high-quality materials aligned to the new standards.
- **Include** civics reading list of foundational historical American documents to build background knowledge on U.S. History, civics and government throughout a student's progression in ELA.
- **Utilize** assessments that are aligned to the new standards, streamlined to reduce testing time and leverage college readiness assessments that are more relevant to parents and students.
- **Strengthen** instruction by providing professional development to teachers and administrators on the new standards and instructional materials.
- **Align** educator preparation programs and certification requirements to the new standards.

With the implementation of these recommendations, Florida will have accomplished the goals set forth in Executive Order 19-32 and eliminated Common Core. By adopting Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards, Florida will **cement high-quality academic standards, raise the bar** for civic literacy, and **take bold steps** to ensure Florida is the most literate state in the nation. **Rather than following the pack as we did with Common Core, Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards put Florida back in the driver's seat, for leading the nation in student achievement.**

# TIMELINE

## OF PUBLIC INPUT FOR

# THE B.E.S.T. STANDARDS

*Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking*



# TIMELINE TO IMPLEMENT THE NEXT STEPS

<b>JANUARY 2020</b>	Provide Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards report to the Governor for input.
<b>FEBRUARY - MARCH 2020</b>	Submit Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards to the State Board of Education for approval.
<b>APRIL - MAY 2020</b>	Revise Course Code Directory and course descriptions.
<b>APRIL 2020</b>	Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 ELA State Instructional Materials Adoption process will begin.
<b>2020-2021</b>	Teacher professional development on Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 ELA Standards and instructional materials will begin.
<b>2020-2021</b>	Teacher professional development on Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 Math Standards and instructional materials will begin.
<b>2020-2021</b>	11th grade students will be offered the opportunity to voluntarily take the SAT or ACT at no cost with no impact on graduation for the student.
<b>2020-2021</b>	Require all 12th grade students to take the Florida Civic Literacy Test for the first time. A passing score will not be required for graduation; however, if a student passes the exam while in high school, they will receive credit for meeting the civic literacy postsecondary assessment requirement in Section 1007.25(4), F.S., before admission to a state college or university.
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>	Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards K-12 Mathematics specifications and criteria will become available.
<b>2021-2022</b>	Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 ELA Standards and instructional materials will be implemented in Florida classrooms.
<b>APRIL 2021</b>	Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 Mathematics State Instructional Materials Adoption Process will begin.
<b>2021-2022</b>	Last administration of the 9th grade statewide, standardized ELA assessment and Geometry end-of-course (EOC) assessment.
<b>2021-2023</b>	Teacher professional development on Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 ELA and Math Standards and materials will continue.
<b>2022-2023</b>	Florida's B.E.S.T. K-12 Mathematics standards and instructional materials will be implemented in Florida classrooms.
<b>2022-2023</b>	The 9th grade FSA and Geometry EOC will be discontinued, and in lieu, participation in the SAT or ACT will become a graduation requirement although a passing score will not be required for graduation.

**1. Florida-Created**

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards are completely Florida-made, crafted by Florida teachers, for Florida students and parents – the teachers, and families, who know our students the BEST!*



**Common Core**

Written by **national** experts to make **national** standards for **national** assessments.

**Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards**

**Created by Florida teachers for Florida students!**

**2. Skills for Lifelong Learning**

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards challenge perspective and promote civic-minded, goal-oriented students, and are built on a foundation of the basics of reading, writing and vocabulary.*



*Creates great thinkers, communicators and researchers for a Bolder, Brighter Future!*

**Common Core**

**Limited** framework

**Limited** text

**Lacked** a focus on the foundations of reading and writing

**Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards**

Organized a **clear and concise** framework

**Comprehensive content** and text including a booklist

**Major focus on foundations** of reading and writing including secondary foundations for struggling readers



### 3. *Embedded Civics*

*A first in the nation, Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards embed civics throughout kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade ELA Standards, with a civic literacy reading list that includes foundational American documents. These historical documents provide the foundation of civic literacy that continues to grow students civic knowledge, including historical context, vocabulary, and reasoning and debate that result in a complete understanding of American history.*



#### *Common Core*

Did not have embedded civics standards.

The U.S. Constitution was introduced in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards*

Establishes a civics literacy reading list that includes works that were foundational to the forming of the nation.

The U.S. Constitution is introduced in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will have a contextual understanding of American history.

### 4. *Content-Rich*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards add content-rich text with an emphasis on classic literature. The inclusion of literary content enables students to learn and understand the full concept of cause and effect, the progression of a story, character development, heritage and much more. This allows students to develop not only better content knowledge, but puts into practice reading, writing, speaking and listening. Common Core focused only on skills, structure and analysis, NOT content.*



#### *Common Core*

Skills  
Structure  
Analysis

#### *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards*

Added great CONTENT  
Skills  
Structure  
Analysis



## 5. *The Art of Reason and Debate*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards move rhetoric from 9<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade so students are introduced to the art of reasoning and debate and develop the understanding of argumentative language earlier in their education. Common Core did not introduce rhetoric until 9<sup>th</sup> grade.*



### Common Core

Did not introduce rhetoric until 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

Introduces rhetoric in 6<sup>th</sup> grade so students are introduced to argumentative language earlier.

This is important because it teaches students the art and science of writing – how to connect with their audience, and logic and reasoning that builds as students progress through their educational journey.

## 6. *Clear and Concise Language*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards have clear and concise language. Common Core had lengthy, wordy explanations, and put multiple concepts in one standard that was confusing to students, teachers and parents.*



### Common Core

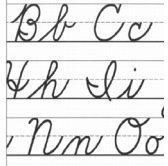
- CCSS.7.RL.7
- Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

- ELA.7.R.1.5
- Analyze multiple media interpretations of a subject or important scene in a literary text.

## 7. *Cursive Writing*

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include cursive writing. Students cannot read the Declaration of Independence in its original form if they cannot read cursive. Research shows that cursive handwriting stimulates the brain in a way print writing cannot. Cursive handwriting enables improved fine motor skills and increased retention resulting in higher student achievement.



### Common Core

N/A

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

ELA.3.C.1.1

- Demonstrate beginning cursive writing skills.

*Benchmark Clarifications:*

*Clarification 1: Students will form upper- and lowercase letters in cursive.*

ELA.4.C.1.1

- Demonstrate legible cursive writing skills.

*Benchmark Clarifications:*

*Clarification 1: Students will produce cursive writing that can be consistently read by others.*



## 8. Foundations for Literacy

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include benchmarks to create courses for students who are struggling with literacy to ensure all of Florida's students are great readers - making Florida the most literate state in the nation. Common Core did not have an instructional focus on providing help to the most fragile students reading below grade level. Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards prioritize fluency, an essential component of a student's literary understanding. Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include fluency at every elementary and secondary grade level. Each standard has a corresponding piece of literature to guide students' understanding with a clear and concise link between literacy and writing. Common Core did not use literary periods and only introduced eras in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.



### Common Core

N/A

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

Standards for secondary students who have not yet mastered reading foundations:

ELA.K.F.1.4

- Recognize and read with automaticity the grade-level sight words.

ELA.612.F.2.3

- Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in encoding words.
- Use an array of strategies to accurately encode single-syllable and multisyllabic words.

ELA.612.F.2.4

- Read grade-level texts with accuracy, appropriate speed, and appropriate prosody or expression.

ELA.7.R.1.4

- Analyze the impact of various poetic forms on meaning and style.

*Benchmark Clarifications:*

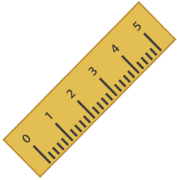
*Sample texts for this benchmark include:*

- *Sonnet 18 (William Shakespeare), Renaissance Period*
- *Jane Eyre (Charlotte Bronte), Romantic Period*
- *One Art (Elizabeth Bishop), Contemporary Period*
- *Mad Girl's Love Song (Sylvia Plath), Contemporary Period*



## 9. *Elevating the Progression of English Language Arts (ELA) Expectations*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include six expectations that are necessary skills to master in every classroom. During the process of creating Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards, it was intended to have both vertical and horizontal alignments that build on a student's knowledge and expectations year after year. There is a clear progression from one grade to the next, with greater consistency within grade levels. Common Core did not emphasize progression and coherence of standards alignment.*



### Common Core

Did not include the same degree of expectations.

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

ELA.K12.EE.1.1

- Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.

ELA.K12.EE.2.1

- Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.

ELA.K12.EE.3.1

- Make inferences to support comprehension.

ELA.K12.EE.4.1

- Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.

ELA.K12.EE.5.1

- Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.

ELA.K12.EE.6.1

- Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.

## 10. *Integrated Resources and Clarifications*

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include integrated resources, glossary and appendices designed to give teachers and parents a clear understanding of student expectations. They also allow ease for teachers with definitions and clarifications. Teachers will be able to consistently understand the ultimate goal of each standard, as was often a challenge with Common Core.



### Common Core

LAFS.7.RL.7

- Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

ELA.7.R.1.5

- Analyze multiple media interpretations of a subject or important scene in a literary text.

*Benchmark Clarifications:*

*Clarification 1: Multiple media interpretations here refers to various versions of the same story. The title need not be the same, but the essence of the characters and plot should match. For example, both *Treasure Planet* and *Godspeed* are interpretations of *Treasure Island*.*

*Clarification 2: Instruction in this standard should include ELA.K12.EE.1.1: Cite textual evidence to explain and justify reasoning.*

*Sample texts for this benchmark include:*

*The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood (Howard Pyle)*

**1. Florida-Created**

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards are completely Florida-made, crafted by Florida teachers, for Florida students and parents – the teachers, and families, who know our students the BEST!*



**Common Core**

Written by national experts to make national standards for national assessments.

**Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards**

**Created by  
 Florida teachers  
 for Florida students!**

**2. No "Confusing" Math**

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards bring education back to the basics. Students should be rewarded, not punished, for using the method they understand best. With Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards, students will memorize addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. This allows students to quickly recall these facts so that they can move on to more advanced concepts.*

**Example:**

**Students are no longer penalized for the RIGHT answer with the "wrong" strategy!**

**Common Core**

- MAFS.4.NBT.2.5
- Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two two-digit numbers, using strategies based on place value and the properties of operations. Illustrate and explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.

**Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards**

- MA.4.NSO.2.2
- Multiply a whole number up to four digits by a one-digit whole number with procedural fluency.

### 3. *Provides Multiple Pathways for Success*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards, in collaboration with Florida College System (FCS) and Career & Technical Education (CTE) experts, offer the foundation to create courses that will promote success for students in college or career pathways.*



#### *Common Core*

Included only one pathway to College Algebra.  
Did not include conversations with FCS and CTE experts.

#### *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards*

Multiple pathways to set students up for success in life.

### 4. *Financial Literacy in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade*



*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include Financial Literacy strands in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Common Core did not include financial literacy for any grade level, producing students who did not understand basic financial concepts like balancing a checkbook.*



#### *Common Core*

N/A

#### *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards*

Introduces Financial Literacy, which teaches students how to problem solve with scenario-based examples about how to make a financial decision, i.e., student loans and credit card debt.

### 5. *Individualized Strategies*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards include the Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning standards (MTRs) which provide a framework for strengthening the learning of mathematics at all grade levels that students, parents and teachers can easily understand. Common Core had Mathematical Practice Standards which were difficult for students to understand. Florida B.E.S.T.'s MTRs speak to the student and clarifications speak to the teacher, developing what MATTERS in order for students to use their mathematical abilities to think and solve problems in their daily lives.*



#### *Common Core*

Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

#### *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards*

Engage in discussions that reflect on the mathematical thinking of self and others.

## 6. Clear Expectations

Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards provide clear and concise expectations that are easily understood by students, parents and teachers. Common Core used long, wordy descriptions that can be misinterpreted.



### Common Core

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.A.1

- Tell and write time to the nearest minute and measure time intervals in minutes. Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of time intervals in minutes, e.g., by representing the problem on a number line diagram.

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

MA.3.M.2

- Tell and write time and solve problems involving time.

MA.3.M.2.1

- Using analog and digital clocks, tell and write time to the nearest minute using a.m. and p.m. appropriately.

MA.3.M.2.2

- Solve one- and two-step real-world problems involving elapsed time.

## 7. Clear Progression

Florida B.E.S.T. Standards provide a clear progression of main strands as shown in the table below. Common Core standards have no such illustration of their progression. Additionally, Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards have both a vertical and horizontal articulation, so there is a clear progression from one grade to the next, with greater consistency within grade levels.



### Common Core

MAFS.1.NBT.2.3

Compare two two-digit numbers based on meanings of the tens and ones digits, recording the results of comparisons with the symbols  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$ .

MAFS.2.NBT.1.4

Compare two three-digit numbers based on meanings of the hundreds, tens, and ones digits, using  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$  symbols to record the results of comparisons.

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

1<sup>st</sup> grade

MA.1.NSO.1.4

Plot, order and compare two-digit whole numbers.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade

MA.2.NSO.1.3

Plot, order and compare three-digit whole numbers.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade

MA.3.NSO.1.3

Plot, order and compare four-digit whole numbers.



## 8. *Consistent and Extensive Support*

*Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards are consistent and extensive in supporting understanding of mathematical language in the benchmarks from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.*



### Common Core

Common Core glossary has 55 items and no pictures for K-12.

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

Florida's glossary has 200 items with the majority illustrated by examples or pictures to assist in understanding how mathematical concepts build from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## 9. *Division Mastered in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*With the Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards, students will master all basic whole number arithmetic by the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This will ensure students entering middle school have a solid foundation to start the next phase of their educational journey. Florida students will master the division algorithm in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Common Core merely introduces multidigit division in fifth grade and doesn't reach the standard algorithm for division until 6<sup>th</sup> grade.*



### Common Core

6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Standard Algorithm

CCSS.5.NBT.6

- Find whole-number quotients of whole numbers with up to four-digit dividends and two-digit divisors, using strategies based on place value, the properties of operations, and/or the relationship between multiplication and division. Illustrate and explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.

### Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards

5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Standard Algorithm

MA.5.NSO.2.2

- Divide multi-digit whole numbers, up to five digits by two digits, including using a standard algorithm with procedural fluency. Represent remainders as fractional parts of the divisor.

## 10. *Sets Clear Expectations for Algebra 1*

*The Florida B.E.S.T Standards have a clearly defined Algebra 1 course in line with the graduation requirements in Florida. Common Core does not have a defined Algebra 1 course.*



### *Common Core*

Common Core does not have a defined Algebra 1 course.



### *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards*

Algebra 1 is clearly defined with benchmark clarifications.

## 5 BIG WINS FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- 1 *Reducing the actual time students and teachers spend on state tests and getting results*
- 2 *Reducing unnecessary, duplicative testing*
- 3 *Replacing state tests with SAT or ACT - tests that are valued by parents and students*
- 4 *Better aligning state tests, via SAT or ACT, to college readiness*
- 5 *Requiring that all high school students take the Florida Civics Literacy Test*

CONSISTENT WITH EO 19-32,  
THE FOLLOWING ARE  
INNOVATIVE POLICY PROPOSALS  
TO **STREAMLINE TESTING** AND  
ALIGN TESTING WITH VALUES  
THAT FLORIDA'S PARENTS,  
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS  
CAN EMBRACE.

## POLICY CHANGES

### I. 2020 Legislation

starting in the 2022-2023 school year:

- a. Phase-out the Grade 9 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment.
- b. Phase-out the statewide, standardized Geometry end-of-course (EOC) assessment.
- c. The last administration of these assessments would occur in the 2021-2022 school year.

### II. 2020 Legislation & Appropriations

starting in the 2020-2021 school year:

- a. Provide all 11th grade students the opportunity to take either the SAT or the ACT at no cost to the student.
- b. The results of the SAT or the ACT will become included in the state's school accountability system no earlier than the 2022-23 school year.
- c. If Florida decides to provide all 11th grade students the opportunity to take either the SAT or ACT at no cost to the student during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, it would cost approximately \$8 million. However, this cost would disappear (be offset) when the above mentioned tests are phased out during the 2022-2023 school year.

### III. 2020 Legislation

starting in the 2022-2023 school year:

- a. High School level testing requirements will be streamlined to the Algebra 1 EOC (currently Algebra 1 EOC and Geometry EOC), the Grade 10 ELA (currently Grade 9 and 10 ELA), and students will have to take the SAT or ACT.
- b. Students will not need to meet a particular passing score on the SAT or ACT in order to graduate from high school.

## DESIGNED FOR STUDENT, PARENT & TEACHER SUCCESS

- ✓ *Provides proper legal notice to students that graduation requirements would change*
- ✓ *Aligns with federal law and case law on testing*
- ✓ *Provides adequate time for teachers, school leaders, parents and students to prepare*
- ✓ *Provides adequate time to transition school accountability*
- ✓ *Achieves both test reduction and increase in quality of tests*
- ✓ *Utilizes SAT and ACT, tests which the majority of students already take*
- ✓ *Aligns high school testing with tests that parents know and trust*
- ✓ *Aligns high school testing with tests that students benefit from*
- ✓ *Increases focus on college readiness for educationally disadvantaged students*

### IV. 2020 Legislation

starting in the 2020-2021 school year:

- a. Require that all high school students take the Florida Civic Literacy Test, which would include 100 questions that encompass the U.S. citizenship exam and additional questions about landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases.
- b. The test would be administered to 12th graders, unless a student wanted to take the test earlier.
- c. Passing the test would NOT be a graduation requirement.
- d. If a student passes the exam while in high school, the student will receive credit for meeting the civic literacy post-secondary assessment requirement in Section 1007.25(4), F.S., before admission to a state college or university.
- e. NOT in the Legislation: during the current school year, 2019-2020, schools would have the option to administer the test voluntarily - a great opportunity for schools and students to learn about the requirement without any consequences.

### V. NO Legislation/

Appropriations for the 2022-2023 school year, when the state transitions to new assessments aligned to new content standards:

- a. To emphasize the necessary focus on reading mastery, the Grade 3 statewide, standardized ELA assessment will become 100% focused on reading when the state transitions to new assessments aligned to the new content standards.



**VI.** NO Legislation/Appropriations for the 2022-2023 school year, when the state transitions to new assessments aligned to new content standards:

- a. The new assessments will be streamlined so that total testing time will be reduced.
- b. Specifically, the total number of questions on each assessment will be reduced.
- c. The total word count in reading passages on the ELA assessment will be reduced.
- d. All mathematics assessments, as well as the Grade 5 Science assessment, which are currently administered over two days, will be administered in one day.
- e. This will leave the statewide, standardized ELA assessment as the only statewide, standardized assessment administered over multiple days.

**IX.** 2020 Legislation:

Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, clarifying in existing statute that if a student transfers to a Florida public high school from out of country, out of state, a private school or a home education program and the student's transcript shows a credit in Algebra 1, the student's transferring course final grade and credit shall be honored as long as the student takes and passes the statewide, standardized Algebra 1 EOC. Currently, some students are being required to both retake the course and the EOC, so this clarification would eliminate the duplicative course requirement, leaving just the EOC.

**VII.** 2020 Legislation:

Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, adding a new requirement that in order to graduate, a student must complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form with the United States Department of Education, although allowing parents the discretion to opt their children out of this requirement.

**VIII.** 2020 Legislation:

Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, improving existing statute to require that a student's final report card for a school year must be issued no later than one week after the last day of school, except for students enrolled in courses, as specified in the course code directory, with an associated statewide, standardized end-of-course assessment pursuant to s. 1008.22, F.S.

