

**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”);

**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;

**WHEREAS** the adopted vision for DCPS is “Every student is inspired and prepared for success in college or a career and life”;

**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**, 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
  - b. The Honorable Joe Negron, Senate President
  - c. The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Speaker of the House
  - d. All Florida Legislators
  - e. All Florida Public School Board Chairpersons
  - f. The Honorable Lenny Curry, Jacksonville Mayor
  - g. The Honorable Anna Lopez Broche, Jacksonville City Council President
  - h. All Jacksonville City Council
  - i. Bob Gramming, Chairperson of the Florida Chamber
  - j. The Honorable John Peyton, Chairperson of the JAXChamber
  - k. Maryann Ferenc, Chairperson of Visit Florida
  - l. William Prescott, Chairman of Visit Jacksonville

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

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

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