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## **Public School Assessments HB 7053**

On behalf of The Florida PTA and its 350,000 plus members across the state we would like to offer the following comments regarding HB 7053, the proposed bill on assessments.

We thank the committee for proposing alternate assessments and taking the first step in moving away from the FCAT as the sole measure of a student's achievement and progress. We regularly hear from parents and students across the state, expressing their concerns about the weight placed on the FCAT and its role as the single determinant of a student's progress.

### **PTA Position**

The PTA has long held the belief that a valid assessment does not consist of only a single test score, and that at no time should a single test be considered the student's academic or work future.

We asked several of our members to review the proposed bill and we have compiled our primary concerns below for your information.

- **The End of Course exams continues to propagate a high stakes system with a single measure continuing to decide the ultimate progress of a student**  
PTA would recommend multiple measures which are performance based, reflecting the different kinds of knowledge and skills that a student is expected to acquire, including but not limited to written examinations, portfolios of student work, and projects to provide a few examples.
- **The mandated requirement to take Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology and successful passage of EOC exam in order to receive credit for the course and graduate high school is based on the assumption that all students can and need to take these courses.**  
PTA believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality education, which will ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential but that no one educational program is best for all children and that we should work together to address the different ways

in which children learn. We would like to see some alternatives offered for those students that may not have the desire or ability to meet these mandates.

- **The EOC exams need to be phased in, time needs to be given for staff development and the funding for districts to be able to deliver these exams electronically needs to be allocated, as well as the infrastructure to make the system work.**

As with all new systems, the transition needs to be carefully phased in and the funds appropriated for its development and administration. The allocation of funds for this program should not in any way negatively affect overall education funding.

We look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward to address some of the issues we have outlined. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

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