

RESOLUTION 15-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA,
REQUESTING CHANGES TO FLORIDA'S
ACCOUNTABILITY/ASSESSMENT SYSTEM; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, during the last several years, the State of Florida's system of educational accountability has been in a state of perpetual flux; and

WHEREAS, these numerous accountability changes along with the implementation of yet another new test is resulting in uncertainty and angst among students, parents, teachers, and community members; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cutler Bay (the "Town") Council supports accountability that is fair, respectful, and used to improve teaching and learning, not to press punitive action on districts, schools and teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council supports restoring reasonable testing instruments and schedules for our children as well as fair calculations of accountability grades; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council acknowledges a way forward to end the confusion by recommending that the Florida Department of Education and the State:

- extend the time for a proper transition to new assessment and accountability standards by one (1) year;
- allow for proper field-testing and test development in areas with similar demographics to Florida's diverse demographics;
- suspend the issuance of school letter grades which should not be based on unreliable performance data for an additional year;
- support the Governor and Commissioner of Education in their effort to have the federal government's Elementary and Secondary Education Act waiver appealed to allow additional testing and calculation flexibility to students with disabilities and students who speak limited English; and
- abandon the state's plan to use baseline assessment data (data generated by first-ever administration of an exam) as a means of generating school grades and teacher evaluations; and

WHEREAS, the suggestions mentioned above represent the Town Council's support for a fair educational accountability and assessment process which effectively informs and improves teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, without a reasonable transitional time to adapt to yet more new accountability standards and without a fair calculation of accountability grades, the future of our children will remain in flux and the viability of Florida’s accountability system will remain in question; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that this Resolution will promote the health, safety and welfare of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. **Request.** The Town Council requests that the Florida Legislature adopt a fair and reasonable system of educational accountability and assessment, which effectively informs parents and improves teaching and learning throughout the State.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of April, 2015.

Attest:

PEGGY R. BELL
Mayor

JACQUELINE N. WILSON
Interim Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE
SOLE USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE
& BIERMAN & P.L.
Town Attorney

Moved By: _____
Seconded By: _____

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Peggy R. Bell _____

Vice Mayor Ernest N. Sochin _____

Council Member Roger Coriat _____

Council Member Sue Ellen Loyzelle _____

Council Member Mary Ann Mixon _____