

**A RESOLUTION OF
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO BUILD ON GAINS IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN FLORIDA**

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution provides that “[t]he education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida”; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution provides for a seven-member State Board of Education with staggered four-year terms that is charged with the “supervision of the system of free public education”; and

WHEREAS, the staggered four-year terms provide continuity for Florida’s education system; and

WHEREAS, the academic achievement of Florida’s students has been consistently improving for over two decades; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s graduation rate rose to 82.3 percent by the 2016-17 school year, an increase of 23.1 percentage points since 2003-04 and 1.6 percentage points over last year; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s Hispanic students, Black students and students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, now rank number one among the fifty states in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Grade 4 Mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Florida has made more progress than any other state in the nation in 2017, as the only state that showed significant improvements in three of the four NAEP assessments; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s scores on 2018 statewide, standardized assessments showed continued improvement and that the achievement gap is closing across many grade levels and subjects; and

WHEREAS, the number of Florida schools graded D and F was cut nearly in half last year and today, 57 percent of Florida schools are rated “A” or “B” and only 7 percent are rated “D” or “F”; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s high school and middle school students earned almost 100,000 Career and Professional Education (CAPE) certifications in 2016-17; and

WHEREAS, Florida’s College System has had for the last five years multiple institutions recognized as winners or finalists in the Aspen Prize for College Excellence; and

WHEREAS, even after two decades of steady gains in student achievement, the State Board of Education expects continued improvement and is guided by a sense of urgency in the pursuit of continuous improvement for all students; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education stands ready to work with the new administrations in the House, Senate and Governor's office to build on the momentum of recent gains in education; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution gives the State Board of Education the express duty of selecting the Commissioner of Education in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education recognizes the ability and experience of Commissioner Pam Stewart, whose leadership has contributed to the recent unprecedented gains in student achievement in Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education hereby adopts the following resolutions in support of continuous improvement in education for all students:

1. The State Board of Education expressly invites Pam Stewart to continue to serve as the Commissioner of Education for a year.
2. Within six months prior to the conclusion of the Commissioner's tenure, the State Board requests that Commissioner Stewart assist with plans for an orderly transition.

ADOPTED, on October 25, 2018, in Citrus County, Florida, by the State Board of Education.

Marva Johnson, Chair