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Superintendents,

This morning, we published proposed school grades rule language in the [Florida Administrative Register](#) to implement the changes required in Senate Bill 1642 (2014). Along with the rule language, I am providing you with a **simulation** of informational baseline school grades for the 2014-2015 school year, based on my proposed [achievement level cut scores](#) for the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) and this proposed rule that I hope you will find useful.

The State Board of Education will vote on this rule, along with the FSA achievement level cut scores, at next month's meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2016, in Tallahassee. Evidenced by the fact that we received nearly 1,000 comments from district staff, educators and members of the public, it is clear there is significant interest in school grades. I am grateful to you and your staff for providing input on this important rule, as we made revisions specific to your comments.

Reviewing simulation data is the final phase of the process for this rule. As you develop your final comments, I am providing you with a simulation of the letter grade each school would earn should the State Board adopt my proposed achievement level cut scores and the school grades rule in its current form. **After the State Board adopts the rule and it goes into effect, we will calculate and release the official preliminary informational baseline school grades, which eventually will be the basis for school recognition dollars.**

It is important to note that the 2014-2015 simulation does not include learning gains since that was the first school year the FSA were administered, nor does it include things, such as the safety net, which are now prohibited by law. Learning gains will be included within the school grades calculation beginning with the results for the 2015-2016 school year, which will be released this summer.

Many of you have expressed support for my proposed achievement level cut scores, which go hand-in-hand with the school grades rule to provide a picture of student and school performance. This informational baseline sets a starting point for students and schools to work toward improved performance in future years.

I commend you and all of our state's educators for your hard work during the 2014-2015 school year. I hope this process also serves as motivation to evaluate potential areas of improvement and to take steps to enhance your students' educational experience so you can all reach, and even exceed, your goals.

As you review your data, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jane Fletcher at 850-245-0699 or staff at the Bureau of Accountability Reporting at 850-245-0411 or email [evalnrpt@fldoe.org](mailto:evalnrpt@fldoe.org).

I look forward to sharing updates with you as we move forward in this process, and I hope you will let us know if there is anything we can do to help you better serve Florida's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke.

Pam Stewart