

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FLORIDA SENATE BILL 964 (SB 964) AND HOUSE BILL 1249 (HB 1249) CONCERNING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY BY AMENDING PROVISIONS IN THE FLORIDA STATUTES TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN END-OF-COURSE EXAMS AND PROVIDING OTHER EDUCATION REFORMS RELATED TO CHARTER SCHOOLS, PROMOTION AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA DESIGNATIONS, THE STATEWIDE STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT PROGRAM, REPORTS RELATING TO STUDENT PROGRESSION AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, THE SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM, AND PERSONNEL EVALUATIONS.

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 964 (SB 964) and House Bill (HB 1249) are identical Bills that have been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2017 session by Senator Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee) and Co-Introducers Senator Rene Garcia (R-Hialeah), Senator Tom Lee (R-Brandon), Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando), Senator Debbie Mayfield (R-Melbourne), Senator Audrey Gibson (D-Jacksonville), and Senator Doug Broxson (R-Pensacola); and by Representative Halsey Beshears (R-Monticello) and Co-Introducer Mel Ponder (R-Fort Walton Beach), respectfully; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 964 and HB 1249 address education accountability in Florida schools by eliminating certain End-of-Course (EOC) exams and providing other education reforms related to charter schools, promotion and graduation requirements, standard high school diploma designations, the statewide standardized assessment program, reports relating to student progression and school improvement, the school grading system, and personnel evaluations; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida has led the country in establishing and implementing a rigorous assessment and accountability system, but the testing of Florida's students, rather than actual instruction, now dominates classroom time; and

**WHEREAS**, the introduction and requirement of EOC assessments in middle school and high school only serve to increase the overall number of assessments on students while diminishing instructional time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Legislature should reduce the overall number of assessments, including the 9th grade Florida Standards Assessment, and should eliminate all EOC assessments, except for Algebra I and Biology I, to allow more instructional time for students at all levels; and

**WHEREAS**, an alternate, nationally recognized assessment should be authorized in high school that is also recognized by colleges and universities, to increase opportunities for students to be successful in college; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous acceleration programs have been implemented in Florida at the college level for students that incorporate assessments as a measure of student performance, including advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, and certificate programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the acceleration opportunities at the high school level should be increased by reducing overall required assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, although state-mandated standardized tests are necessary for accountability within our schools, the State should allow local school districts to implement a reasonable and appropriate EOC testing schedule that does not affect students receiving a diverse and high-quality education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission support the reforms in SB 964 and HB 1249 which will enhance education accountability in Florida schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby support Senate Bill 964 and House Bill 1249.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2017.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip Levine, Mayor

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

Julia Bente AN 3/16/17  
City Attorney Date