



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
AND THE MANATEE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Assessment Tests and End of Course Exams

Background: Public schools in the state of Florida are going through an unprecedented time of transition in terms of assessment testing of our children. As the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year came to a close last week, students in Manatee District schools took assessment tests including mandatory end-of-course exams. We are well aware that there is an elevated level of rigor and frustration regarding assessment testing.

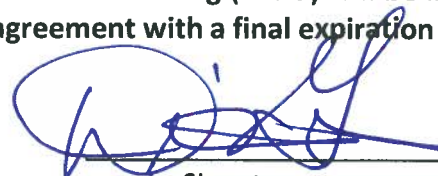
Our district, along with other school districts across the state, was given the unenviable task of developing and administering more than 800 end-of-course exams this year. To accomplish this Herculean task, we worked with respected educators, educational contractors and sub-contractors across the state who are familiar with Florida's Content Standards. Assessment items were drawn from an "Item Bank" and reviewed and evaluated by at least one of the following: Florida educators, Florida Department of Education Content Specialists or other expert reviewers.

Proposal: Since this is the first year of implementing these new state required assessments, some questions or items included in the assessment testing will no doubt be found to be inappropriate, unreliable or invalid for a variety of reasons. Only actual testing itself, followed by a thorough review of the results of those tests can really determine the exactitude of a particular assessment.

In order to ensure that this transition does not negatively impact instructional employees, Manatee County Public Schools will propose value-added and student learning growth cut points, so that all instructional employees would receive a student learning growth score of not less than 'EFFECTIVE' (2.5-3.49) for the 2014-2015 school year. For instructional employees with one or two years of previous data, the effective rating will be factored in for the final student growth rating. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be in effect for three years unless legislative changes impact this agreement with a final expiration of June 30, 2017.


Signature _____ Date 1/30/15

Pat Barber, President
Manatee Education Association


Signature _____ Date 1/30/15

Dr. Diana Greene, Deputy Superintendent
Instructional Services
School District of Manatee County