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Dear Parents,

Over the next few months, many of your students will take the Florida Standards Assessments, statewide science assessments and statewide end-of-course assessments. I am writing today to share with you that we have redesigned the score reports to make them more meaningful for Florida's students, parents and educators.

As a mother, grandmother and former classroom teacher, I have a personal appreciation for the time, energy and effort that you put into helping your students succeed. You have likely spent countless hours assisting with homework and projects, attending parent-teacher conferences and a myriad of other activities in which highly engaged parents participate. At the end of the school year, you deserve a clear depiction of how your student performed so that you – and your student's future educators – can be empowered to help them reach their full potential.

We took a close look at the key components of the current score report. One of the key concerns we noted in our research was the tendency to use the terms "satisfactory" and "proficient" interchangeably, although they actually represent two different levels of mastery. "Satisfactory" is representative of level 3 on the assessments, while "proficient" is really a more appropriate term to describe level 4.

To address this common misconception and provide additional clarity, we incorporated the following features into the newly redesigned score report:

- Color-coded levels (1-5), so it is apparent which level the student achieved at first glance;
- Clear explanation of what each level means, including the difference between "satisfactory" and "proficient," with additional detail about the level that the student achieved;
- Comparison of the student's performance to other students in their school, district and the state; and
- References to specific Department of Education websites that offer resources parents and students can use to increase preparation for the next grade/course.

We have provided sample score reports and additional information online at <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/fsa-report.stm>. As a parent, you are the single most important person in your child's life and a critical component of our state's education system.

We appreciate you, and I hope that you will review these at your convenience and let us know if you have any questions by responding to this email.

Sincerely,

Education Commissioner Pam Stewart