



Florida House of Representatives
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**DEMOCRATIC LEADER APPLAUDS SIGNING
OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY BILL**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement regarding Governor Charlie Crist's signing today of Senate Bill 4 (Education Accountability):

"I commend Governor Charlie Crist for signing Senate Bill 4, a measure about education accountability that goes a long way toward advancing reforms supported by members of the Florida House Democratic Caucus.

"Unlike the misguided Senate Bill 6, the anti-teacher bill that Republican legislative leaders rammed through the Legislature earlier this month, Senate Bill 4 includes bipartisan solutions for education reform and, as a result, enjoyed broad support in the state House and Senate.

"Senate Bill 4 is not a perfect bill, but it properly phases out the high school Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math, science and writing, and it introduces end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology 1.

"The legislation would have been improved had it included provisions to assist high school students who struggle to pass Algebra 1, Geometry and Biology 1. Regardless of its shortcomings, I am pleased to support the bill in the House of Representatives, and I applaud Governor Crist for signing the legislation."

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