

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION (FABE) RESOLUTION ON
NATIVE LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT AND TESTING
RESOLUTION #1-2019**

WHEREAS Florida is a multilingual state with approximately 200 bilingual education programs and home of the nation's first public two-way immersion program (Coral Way Elementary, 1963);

WHEREAS bilingual students have the ability to demonstrate learning and content knowledge in languages other than English;

WHEREAS research demonstrates conclusively that the use of two or more languages are beneficial to individual development and to society;

WHEREAS research demonstrates conclusively that native language assessment for English language learners for whom it is appropriate yields more accurate, valid, and useful results than testing through a language not yet mastered;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the State of Florida should encourage districts with bilingual students and/or bilingual education programs to test students in languages other than English in order to accurately gauge student learning and content knowledge;*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the State of Florida should encourage districts with bilingual students and/or bilingual education programs to test students' language proficiency levels in the language(s) of instruction, in addition to English;*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT *the State of Florida should provide English language learners native language alternatives to state assessments, College Readiness exams, End of Course exams, and the Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS), beginning with the two languages most frequently used other than English by Florida students.*

UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVED BY THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THIS ___18___ DAY OF ___FEBRUARY___ 2019