

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)  
To: [Press](#)  
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Representative Robin Bartleman and Senator Perry Thurston File Bill to Address Covid-19 Impact on School Accountability  
Date: Monday, February 1, 2021 12:59:53 PM

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

February 1, 2021

### **CONTACT**

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**\*\*Media Advisory for Tuesday, February 2, at 09:00am\*\***

## **Representative Robin Bartleman and Senator Perry Thurston File Bill to Address Covid-19 Impact on School Accountability**

**Tallahassee, FL - Representative Robin Bartleman (D- Weston) and Senator Perry Thurston (D- Fort Lauderdale)** will be holding a press conference on their bills, [House Bill 359](#) and [Senate Bill 886](#): COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability.

“As a former classroom teacher and assistant principal, I know from experience that it’s time to take a pause from the pressure and penalties of high-stakes testing. Students should take the test, and teachers should use the data to remediate those students who have regressed due to the impacts of this pandemic. The Department of Education should utilize the data to determine the resources needed to assist our schools. There was nothing typical about this school year; teachers and students lost family members, faced housing and food insecurity, were quarantined, and many students are dealing with mental health issues. Now is not the time to use the Florida standardized testing punitively,” said **Representative Bartleman**.

HB 359/SB 886 is intended to mitigate inequity in our schools resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Testing data, yielded from the 2020- 2021 academic year, will not be used for decisions regarding student retention and graduation, teacher effectiveness, or school grades. Instead, statewide, standardized assessments will be used to inform instruction and identify student need. This is a continuation of the emergency order from the 2019- 2020 school year.

“It would be unfair to penalize our students on the accountability system as well as hold our teachers responsible for student performance on test assessments during the COVID-19 crises. Due to the different modalities of learning (in-person and online) this year’s data should be used as a baseline to form the necessary academic interventions to address the COVID-19 academic slide,” said **Senator Thurston**.

**Who: Representative Robin Bartleman and Senator Perry Thurston**

**What:** Press Conference on COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability

**When:** Tuesday, February 2, at 09:00am

**Where:** Webex

[https://myfloridahouse.webex.com/myfloridahouse/j.php?  
MTID=madd0c8dbb70c5c640175e1ad686cd151](https://myfloridahouse.webex.com/myfloridahouse/j.php?MTID=madd0c8dbb70c5c640175e1ad686cd151)

Meeting number (access code): 179 377 6514

Meeting password: biXAZ6MRq23

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