



Have standards

Letters to the Editor June 10, 2014

Last week, the school superintendents in Collier and Lee counties said they were "encouraged" by the newly released FCAT scores. Encouraged? I'm appalled!

How can you be "encouraged" by a 1 percent increase when over 40 percent of the students didn't reach the minimum in reading and math? And, roughly, 50 percent of the students didn't cut it in science?

We're supposed to be "encouraged" because we're slightly ahead of the state average? That's a significant accomplishment — ACT test scores for Florida rank 48th in the nation. I'm supposed to be "encouraged" by that?

The paper reported the "data brought few waves to Southwest Florida." Waves? How can there be waves when the state's educational system is mired in a non-enlightened swamp? A quagmire where testing does little other than point out how bad we are. A morass where leaders blame others. A top-down entanglement that leaves little room for local schools to act.

Worse yet, no one seems to care about the kids, and the disservice we've done to them. We deserve better; they deserve better!

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