

## Letter: Rated F

Staff Reports

Saturday, December 8, 2012

Les Cochran, San Carlos Park

Rated F

Wow, that's impressive!

The state Department of Education rated over 96 percent of the teachers as being effective or highly effective. What other profession could stand up to that test? Earlier, the department rated roughly 75 percent of Florida schools A or B. That's outstanding!

So what if a few teachers were double-counted in the recent teacher evaluation? Who cares if tests weren't available for all teachers? Well, maybe those who weren't tested, but that was a small number.

And remember last summer when school ratings were too low? No problem! They fixed that by lowering the cutoff scores. That made sense, right?

Gov. Rick Scott wants to save money by streamlining state government — eliminating duplication and cutting dysfunctional waste. The Department of Education has over 2,500 employees and an operating budget of \$20 billion. There's plenty of room for cuts.

The State Board of Education cites four goals by which the department should be measured. My evaluation of each follows:

- 1) Highest student achievement: Rated F — Florida's ACT scores rank 48th in the nation.
- 2) Seamless articulation and maximum access: Rated F — over 70 percent of the students at Edison State College take remedial courses in reading, writing or math.
- 3) Skilled workforce and economic development: Rated F — the state's dropout is above the national average, and many high school graduates can't read on grade level or make change for a dollar.
- 4) Quality efficient services: Rated F — what more needs to be said about the department's performance?

It's time to redefine and limit the scope of the department.



© 2012 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online