



Education Committee

Action Team Report

Reported by Pat Drago

The Education Team met by Zoom on **Monday, August 18, 2025**, to discuss the recent visit to Superintendent Balgobin by Pat Drago and Carolyn Carbonell.

Carolyn's account of the meeting included 10 slides highlighting the gains made over the past two decades and the data supporting the **A rating** achieved by Volusia County Schools. She walked the team through each slide, explaining the data and how the ranking was determined.

Questions were raised regarding the validity of the information and testing procedures. It was acknowledged that a small group will always question data collection methods; nevertheless, the overall report was positive, showing steady improvement compared to previous years.

It was also noted that **Volusia County now ranks 24th in the state among Florida's 67 districts**, with no D or F schools.

Looking ahead, the team plans to meet with individual school board members, pairing LWV representatives with board members from the same area to discuss key issues. In addition, plans are underway to arrange visits to local schools. A meeting is scheduled for **September 17** with Krista Goodrich, joined by Pat Drago and Lena Ellis.

Next Committee Meeting: September 24, 4:00 pm at the VUE Building.

Action Team met **September 24, 2025** and we have set our next two meeting dates.

1. Julia Carson will explain adaptive testing and how it works to establish school and district grades in Florida.
November 17, 4:00 pm at the VUE.
2. Nicki Junkins will explain national norm testing such as the NAEP and the SAT.
December 1, 4:00pm at the VUE

After these two sessions our members will be able to understand and explain why Florida tests show so much student progress and achievement, while continuing to slide in national testing measures. What do these assessments measure and how valid are they?

The Education Action Team will also visit two Volusia Schools

Beach Side Elementary - Dec. 2nd at 8:00 am

Deltona Middle - Jan. 13th at 8:00 (Time may change)