

Time to Teach, Time to Learn Draft School Board Resolution

End the Overuse and Misuse of Standardized Testing

WHEREAS, our nation's future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning, and strengthens the nation's social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, our nation's school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes and standardized testing, in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS, the overreliance on high-stakes and standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the over-emphasis on standardized testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermining school climate; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities; THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the [your School District Governing Board name] supports locally developed, authentic assessments as drivers of instruction and more time for educators to teach and students to learn;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that [your School District Governing Board name] calls on the governor, state legislature and state education boards and administrators to reexamine public school accountability systems in this state, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of evidence that does not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools; and

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that [your School District Governing Board name] calls on the U.S. Congress and Administration to reduce the federal testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality.