

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Resolution  
Concerning the A-F Accountability Rating System for Texas Public Schools

STATE OF TEXAS    §  
                          §  
                          §

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has enacted legislation that requires the Commissioner of Education to implement a public school rating system that would assign A through F grades to schools and districts beginning with the 2017-18 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, at least 16 states have implemented a similar rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and, to date, there is no definitive research that suggests these ratings have improved student or school performance; and

**WHEREAS**, in a recent statewide survey conducted by the State Board of Education, an overwhelming majority of Texans do not want high-stakes, standardized test scores to serve as the primary basis for a public school rating system; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority (55%) of the A through F grades are based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), a high-stakes, standardized test that does not accurately measure student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the STAAR provides little meaningful information to guide student learning, inform teachers or report academic progress to parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner's proposed rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts includes five domains and numerous unrelated indicators to determine a single grade, leaving the public with an invalid, disconnected reflection of school quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner's proposed rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools, and districts creates a false impression about students, ignores the unique strengths of each school, and unfairly reduces each student's worth to the school's assigned grade; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe in the tenets set out in *Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas* (TASA, 2008) and our goal is to transform education in GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT in accordance with these tenets; and

**WHEREAS**, we embrace meaningful accountability that informs students, parents, and teachers about the learning needs of each student and each school; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe our state's future prosperity relies on a high-quality education system that prepares students for college and careers, and without such a system Texas' economic competitiveness and ability to attract new business will falter; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Board of Trustees calls on the Texas Legislature to repeal the rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and develop a community-based accountability system that empowers school districts to design their own internal systems of assessment and accountability that, while meeting general state standards, allows districts to innovate and customize curriculum and instruction to meet the needs and interests of each student and their communities; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this new system should reduce the use of high-stakes, standardized tests,

encompass multiple assessments, reflect greater validity, and, more accurately reflect what students know and can do in terms of the rigorous standards.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017

By: Terry Brooks  
Name: Terry Brooks  
Title: Board President

By: Steve Pryor  
Name: Steve Pryor  
Title: Board Vice President

By: Katrina Jones  
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By: David A. Espinosa  
Name: David Espinosa  
Title: Board Member

By: Burke Hall  
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