Resolution of the Board Regarding State Accountability

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide disaster regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, The Texas Commissioner of Education announced that administration of STAAR exams would be canceled for spring 2020, and school districts and campuses would be assigned ratings of “Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster” for 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Texas Governor issued Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation through this action and in accordance with Guidelines from the President ordered the temporary closure of all Texas school districts;

WHEREAS, academic growth will not be possible to accurately calculate for spring 2021, as students will not have previous year STAAR scores from spring 2020;

WHEREAS, academic growth accounts for 50% of an elementary or junior high campus’s Domain 3 score, which will have adverse effect on overall accountability ratings for those campuses;

WHEREAS, graduates from the class of 2020 will have missed opportunities to earn TSI points under CCMR due to the cancellation of the spring and summer SAT test and the spring ACT test;

WHEREAS, external research shows that, historically, extended school closures negatively affect student achievement in math and reading, with the greater impact being in math;

WHEREAS, internal research shows that there are significant academic gains made at the end of each school year, which may not be present now with the extended school closure;

WHEREAS, exceptions have been made to accountability in the past when schools were closed for an extended period of time (i.e., Katrina, Rita, and Harvey);

WHEREAS, truly diagnostic efforts to assess learning losses related to extended closures must be made soon after students return to school, and only in an environment that is intended to aid the student and not punish either student or school;

WHEREAS, it is still unknown what additional adjustments to the educational process will be necessary to start the 2020-2021 school year to address the social, emotional, and physical health impact upon students when they return to school in whatever format that may be;

WHEREAS, developing new accountability systems is a multi-year process that requires public comment, and they are typically phased in over multiple years, so major adjustments for one year would be very difficult;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of      , that the Texas Commissioner of Education should apply to the US Department of Education for a waiver of assessment requirements for the for the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of      , that the Texas Commissioner of Education should suspend application of the Student Success Initiative for the 2020-2021 school year to allow students and teachers to focus on remediating instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19 without fear of punitive measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of      , that State accountability should be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year to allow districts to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2020, by the Board of Trustees.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, President

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Trustee

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