

## **Time to Learn Model School Board Resolution (Two Options)**

### **Model School Board Resolutions - Option 1**

#### **Support for Parents Right to Opt-Out Their Children from All Standardized Assessments**

WHEREAS, the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in district, 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,

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, reducing instructional time, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermining school climate,

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of parents, educators and school districts are voicing concerns about the over-emphasis and over-abundance of standardized tests,

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,

WHEREAS, the state and [insert local School Board name] requires schools throughout the district to administer standardized tests throughout the year including [insert names of standardized tests],

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that a parent or guardian within the [insert local School District name] has the right to exclude his or her child from any or all parts of any standardized tests via a written request to school officials,

Let it also be resolved that a school and its employees may discuss standardized tests with parents or guardians and may inform parents of the right of the parent or guardian to exclude his or her child from standardized tests,

Let it also be resolved that a school district employee may provide a parent or guardian with his or her opinion on whether or not a student would benefit from exclusion from any standardized test and that no adverse action or discipline will be taken against a school district employee who engages in such a discussion,

Let it also be resolved that neither a school nor its employees shall be negatively impacted due to a student not taking any standardized test, accordingly students who are excluded from standardized tests in accordance with this resolution are excluded from performance calculations for [insert local School Board name] accountability measures and from employee evaluations,

Let it also be resolved that the [insert local School Board name] commits to work with educators to reduce the volume of standardized tests that students must take and to reduce the time



educators and students spend on meaningless test preparation drills, accordingly, no more than [insert percentage] of the school year should be spent on standardized-assessments and assessment preparation drills,

Let it also be resolved that the [insert local School Board name] commits to working with educators and other stakeholders to reexamine public school accountability systems in this district and state, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment that do not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools,

Let it also be resolved that the [insert local School Board name] shall promulgate any necessary policies, procedures and guidelines to implement this resolution.

## **Model School Board Resolution - Option 2**

### **Support for Parents Right to Opt-Out Their Children from District-Level Standardized Assessments**

WHEREAS, the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in district, 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,

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, reducing instructional time, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermining school climate,

WHEREAS, increasing numbers of parents, educators and school districts are voicing concerns about the over-emphasis and over-abundance of standardized tests,

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,

WHEREAS, in addition to the standardized tests mandated under state and federal law, [insert local School Board name] requires schools throughout the district to also administer separate district-wide standardized tests throughout the year including [insert names of district level standardized tests],

WHEREAS, [insert local School Board name] would not suffer any negative impacts under state and federal law by allowing parents or guardians the ability to exclude their children from the district-level standardized tests,

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that a parent or guardian within the [insert local School District name] has the right to exclude his or her child from any or all parts of district-level standardized tests via a written request to school officials,

Let it also be resolved that a school and its employees may discuss the district-level standardized tests with parents or guardians and may inform parents of the right of the parent or guardian to exclude his or her child from district-level standardized tests,

Let it also be resolved that a school district employee may provide a parent or guardian with his or her opinion on whether or not a student would benefit from exclusion from a district-level standardized test and that no adverse action or discipline will be taken against a school district employee who engages in such a discussion,

Let it also be resolved that neither a school nor its employees shall be negatively impacted due to a student not taking a district-level standardized test, accordingly students who are excluded from district-level standardized tests in accordance with this resolution are excluded from

performance calculations for [insert local School Board name] accountability measures and from employee evaluations,

Let it also be resolved that the [insert local School Board name] commits to work with educators to reduce the volume of standardized tests that students must take and to reduce the time educators and students spend on meaningless test preparation drills, accordingly, no more than [insert percentage] of the school year should be spent on standardized-assessments and assessment preparation drills,

Let it also be resolved that the [insert local School Board name] commits to working with educators and other stakeholders to reexamine public school accountability systems in this district and state, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment that do not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools,

Let it also be resolved that the [insert local School Board name] shall promulgate any necessary policies, procedures and guidelines to implement this resolution.