

Time to Learn Model State & Local Affiliate Resolution

Model State/Local Affiliate Resolution

Resolution of Support for Parental Opt-Out Rights

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, school districts throughout [state name] are mandated by [state name] to administer standardized tests specific to grade levels,

WHEREAS, in addition to the standardized tests mandated under state and federal law, school districts throughout [state name] also administer separate district-wide standardized tests throughout the year which increases the amount of annual standardized testing,

WHEREAS, at present, there are no laws in [state name] which protect the right of a parent or guardian to exclude his or her child from state or district-level standardized tests,

WHEREAS, at present, there are no laws in [state name] which provide employment protections to educators who discuss the impact of standardized tests with a parent or guardian, therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that the [state/local affiliate name] supports the right of a parent or guardian to exclude his or her child from any or all parts of state and district-level standardized tests and supports the right of educators to discuss the impact of standardized testing with parents and/or guardians without suffering from adverse actions,

Let it also be resolved that the [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] to formulate and pass legislation and policies which allow a parent or guardian the right to exclude his or her child from any or all parts of state and/or district-level standardized tests via a written request to school officials,



Let it also be resolved that the [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] to formulate and pass legislation and policies which allow a school and its employees to discuss the state and district-level standardized tests with parents or guardians and may inform parents or guardians of their ability to exclude his or her child from state and/or district-level standardized tests,

Let it also be resolved that the [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] to formulate and pass legislation and policies which allow a school district employee to provide a parent or guardian with his or her opinion on whether or not a student would benefit from exclusion from a state and/or 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 the [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] to formulate and pass legislation and policies whereby a school and its employees would not be negatively impacted due to a student not taking a state and/or district-level standardized test, such as by ensuring that students who are opted out of standardized tests by a parent or guardian are excluded from performance calculations for state and local accountability measures and from employee evaluations,

Let it also be resolved that the [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] 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,

Let it also be resolved that the [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] to formulate and pass legislation and policies whereby 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 [state/local affiliate name] calls on the Governor, [state name] legislature, [state name] Board/Department of Education, and school districts throughout [state name] to commit to working with educators and other stakeholders to reexamine public school accountability systems throughout the 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.