



## NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: December 12, 2016

Presenter: Brian G. Gottardy  
Superintendent

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

Related Page(s): Attachment

### ACTION ITEM

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Resolution Concerning the A-F Accountability Rating System for Texas Public Schools calls on the Texas Legislature to repeal the A-F letter-grade school/district rating system to be implemented in 2017-18 and to develop a community-based accountability system.

With support from communities across Texas, this type of grassroots effort can make a difference. In 2012, 881 districts representing more than 4.4 million students adopted resolutions calling on the Texas Legislature to reexamine the state's overreliance on standardized testing. Together, these districts captured the attention of lawmakers, business leaders, parents and the news media, not just in Texas, but around the nation. As a result, we saw positive changes in the assessment and accountability system at the high school level via House Bill 5 in 2013 and via Senate Bill 149 in 2015.

If we are to stop the A-F rating system before it harms Texas schools and students, we need all districts to stand united on this issue. We need statewide support of the resolution on A-F rating systems to push for the development of an accountability system that relies on multiple assessments and more accurately reflects what students know, appreciate, and can do.

#### **BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the North East Board of Trustees approve the attached Resolution.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

Approval/Disapproval

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NORTH EAST 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 North East ISD 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 North East ISD 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.