

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE,
URGING SUSPENSION OF
MANDATORY STATE STUDENT TESTING
AND STUDENT GROWTH TEACHER EVALUATIONS
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021**

RESOLUTION: _____

**REQUESTED BY:
SUSAN HORN, BOARD CHAIR**

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

DEPUTY LAW DIRECTOR

BOARD APPROVED: _____
DATE

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education is elected by the people of Knox County to govern the Knox County Schools; and T.C.A. § 49-2-203 authorizes local boards of education to govern their respective districts;

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education acknowledges that student assessment and evaluation of teacher effectiveness are vitally important components for accountability and for measuring the district's progress toward achieving its vision, goals and objectives;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create unprecedented challenges for educators to create consistent learning environments for students due to the possibility of students moving back and forth from a virtual to in-person platform at different points in the school year;

WHEREAS, since Knox County Schools plans to resume in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year within safety guidelines, it is critically important to support our students and teachers to provide as much instructional time as possible while limiting potential disruptions when practical; and

WHEREAS, given on April 2, 2020, Governor Bill Lee signed Public Chapter 652 which removed the requirement for TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program) and TNReady testing, end-of-course examinations, and other related testing and assessments; the

Chapter also suspended the student growth measure of teachers' evaluations, with other teacher evaluation exemptions, and allowed the State Board of Education to promulgate necessary rules to address issues created by COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year. As such the State has established a precedent for suspending standardized testing as the pandemic situation warrants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education hereby urges the State of Tennessee to suspend all state required student assessments, including but not limited to, TNReady testing, and suspend the student growth measure and/or any other portion of teacher evaluations directly related to student assessments for school year 2020-2021 in order for educators to focus instead on student safety, health protocols, remediation, and recouping lost instruction time from the prior school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution in no way diminishes the importance of the Board's vision, goals, or objectives related to the academic achievement of the students of Knox County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution in no way diminishes the Board's expectation for high academic standards, accountability measures, or student assessments to inform effective instruction.

Chair, Knox County Board of Education

Date