

PTA RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ON ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, all schools and school districts in Oklahoma have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized testing to comply with state and federal accountability systems, in which student performance on standardized tests is inappropriately used to measure individual student progress, school and district success, and teacher effectiveness, which undermines 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; and

WHEREAS, an accountability system should include multiple indicators of educational quality; and

WHEREAS, assessments should not be used for high-stakes determinations such as grade promotion or graduation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Parent Teacher Association calls for the State of Oklahoma to reexamine public school accountability systems in our state, and develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment and evaluation which does not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Parent Teacher Association calls for a moratorium on policies that force Oklahoma State public schools to rely on high-stakes testing due to the fact that there is no convincing evidence that the pressure associated with high-stakes testing leads to any important benefits to student achievement; and be it

RESOLVED, that the State of Oklahoma use inclusive practices of assessment design that includes teachers and administrators, and engages the college and university academic community, resulting in the development of tests that effectively measure each district's progress in helping students meet state standards using their own locally developed curricula and will provide practitioners with data that can be used to improve teaching and learning; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Parent Teacher Association calls to eliminate any requirement that teacher evaluations be based on Oklahoma State Assessments and to develop a system of teacher evaluations which does not require extensive standardized testing, and requires districts to document that their teacher evaluation process assesses the progress of each teacher in meeting the Oklahoma State Teaching Standards using multiple measures of teaching performance.

RESOLUTION ON FIELD TESTS/ITEM TRYOUTS

WHEREAS, 'Field Tests', which are given during or outside of the same testing window as all other required standardized tests, do not benefit the academic progress of Oklahoma public school students as the data from the test is not given to the student, teacher, parents, school or school district and,

WHEREAS, Field Tests are used to develop further punitive high stakes exams that will be used to retain third grade children, keep eighth graders from obtaining future driving privileges, as well as withhold diplomas from high school seniors who have completed all other coursework required by the local school district, and

WHEREAS, whether Field Tests will be used to determine the evaluation of teacher and school leader performance as well as school and district A-F grades remains unknown due to the lack of effective and open communication between the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the parents of Oklahoma, and

WHEREAS, Field Tests will cause additional disruptions to computer based courses by requiring the exclusive use of the materials needed for learning, and

WHEREAS, These tests are being given at our expense, with public, taxpayer dollars, so that a private corporation can turn around and sell their test product back to us at a profit, and

WHEREAS, The Oklahoma State Department of Education has arbitrarily determined which districts will participate in the field tests, thereby skewing the results of overall testing outcomes and statistical validity by interfering in the random sampling.

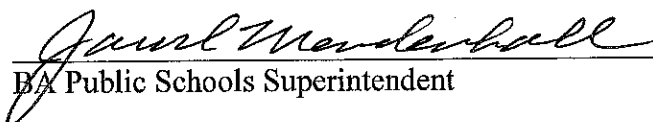
RESOLVED, that Oklahoma PTA objects to the mass administration of field tests.

RESOLVED, that Oklahoma public school children should not be expected to conduct corporate research for CTB/McGraw Hill, Measured Progress, Pearson, or any other for profit testing company.

RESOLVED, that Oklahoma PTA wants all standardized tests given to students to provide actionable information in a timely manner to be used by students, parents, teachers, and administrators to further the education of students. If a test does not meet these criteria, the test should not be given.


BA Public Schools Board of Education President

January 12, 2015
Date


BA Public Schools Superintendent

January 12, 2015
Date