



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

**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 percent) of the A through F grades are based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness, 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 success to the school's assigned grade; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arlington ISD has a robust strategic plan that appropriately places emphasis on many aspects of a student's school experience and is not dependent on STAAR exams; and

**WHEREAS**, A-F is one way to measure a school or district, we believe an emphasis on a student's comprehensive learning outcomes and experiences – such as fine arts, extracurricular participation, career preparation, advanced studies and community service – is more appropriate and reflective of a student's preparation for college, career and citizenship; 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 Arlington 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, allow 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.

Signed this 19th day of January 2017.

  
Board President Jamie Sullins

  
Board Vice President Dr. Aaron Reich

  
Board Secretary John Hibbs

  
Board Asst. Secretary Kecia Mays

  
Board Member Polly Walton

  
Board Member Kristen Hudson

  
Board Member Bowie Hogg

  
Superintendent Dr. Marcelo Cavazos