

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

January 10, 2017

## **SUMMARY:**

- This item requests approval of Resolution concerning the A-F Accountability Rating System for Texas Public Schools that has been mandated by the Texas Legislature to be created and implemented through the Commissioner of Education's office. The proposed final implementation is slated for the 2017-18 school year.

## **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

- None

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- 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.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:** There is no definitive research that supports A-F ratings have improved student or school performance in at least 16 states that have previously implemented an A-F rating system. Most Texans (based on survey data) oppose high-stakes, standardized test scores to serve as a means of rating public schools. The majority of the ratings are based on data from the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STARR), which is a high-stakes, standardized test that does not sufficiently measure student learning.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- None

## **BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

- After much discussion and reflection, we find no benefit to this mandated public school rating system.

## **PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:**

- Student data would be reported to the State based upon results of STARR testing. Fifty-five percent of the STARR testing data would be used to rate Texas Public Schools and districts with a grade of A-F in four separate domains: Domain I – Student Achievement; Domain II – Student Progress; Domain III – Closing Performance Gaps; and Domain IV – Postsecondary Readiness.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:**

- We are anticipating public comment when the trial results of the rating system are released to the public on Friday, January 6, 2017. The information released will be trial results based on past data that we have already received and addressed in our Campus Improvement Plans.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

- No alternative actions are being proposed by the Legislature at this time.

## **OTHER COMMENTS:**

- We embrace meaningful accountability that informs student, parents, and teachers about the learning needs of each student and each school. This proposed rating system does not accomplish that goal.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends that the Denton ISD Board of Trustees, through this resolution, 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. In addition, any new system proposed 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.

## **STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

- Jamie Wilson, Superintendent of Schools

## **ATTACHMENT:**

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

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_