

NORTH TEXAS REGIONAL CONSORTIUM

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING HIGH STAKES, STANDARDIZED TESTING
OF TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF _____ §

WHEREAS, standardized, high stakes testing is strangling our public schools and undermining any chance that educators have to transform a traditional system of schooling into an educational opportunity that prepares our students to be competitive on a global stage; and

WHEREAS, the members of the North Texas Regional Consortium (NTRC), a group of high-performing school districts located in the North Texas area, unanimously join Robert Scott, Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency, in his concern about the overemphasis on high stakes testing and in his continuing support of high standards and local accountability; and

WHEREAS, the NTRC agrees with a recent statement from Bill Hammond, President of the Texas Association of Business, that “[i]f we do not deliver a quality education system that prepares our students for college and careers, Texas’ ability to attract new business, improve our economy and maintain our competitiveness will surely falter. Our very prosperity as a state, its business and its people stands in the balance” and

WHEREAS, the NTRC disagrees with the idea that the path to success for all students is through more standardized tests and strongly believes that introducing more tests that require students to memorize and fill out bubble answer sheets as a condition of graduation will continue to keep school districts from being able to reach the very goals upon which all Texans agree; and

WHEREAS, the real work of delivering a quality education begins by changing what occurs in our classrooms every day; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the tenets set out in *Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas* (copy attached) and are working to transform our districts through many means including participation in the newly formed Texas Visioning Network through the Texas Association of School Administrators; and

WHEREAS, our vision is for all students to be engaged in relevant learning activities that provide for student choice and we embrace the concept that students can be more than consumers of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, only by creating classrooms that foster and celebrate innovation, creativity, problem solving skills, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking

will we actually make progress toward developing the very skills that business leaders such as the Texas Association of Business desire in a rising workforce; and

WHEREAS, imposing relentless test preparation and boring memorization of facts to enhance test performance is doing little more than stealing the love of learning from our students and assuring that we fall short of our goals; and

WHEREAS, we do not oppose accountability in public schools and point with pride to the stellar performance of our students on every test the state has developed, but we believe that the system of the past will not prepare our students to lead in the future and neither will the standardized tests that so dominate their instructional time and block our ability to make progress toward a world-class education system of student-centered schools with future-ready students; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the NTRC calls on the Texas Legislature to reexamine the public school accountability system in Texas and to develop a system that truly measures student learning against rigorous standards that will prepare them for their global futures without undermining the fundamental principles of good teaching or destroying students' innate love of learning.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 2012.

By: _____
Name: Jeff Turner
Title: Superintendent, Coppell ISD

By: _____
Name: Ken Helvey
Title: Superintendent, Allen ISD

By: _____
Name: J.D. Kennedy
Title: Superintendent, McKinney ISD

By: _____
Name: Dawson Orr
Title: Superintendent, Highland Park ISD

By: _____
Name: Richard Matkin
Title: _____, Plano ISD

By: _____
Name: Rick Reedy
Title: Superintendent, Frisco ISD

By: _____
Name: Karen Rue
Title: Superintendent, Northwest ISD

By: _____
Name: Steve Waddell
Title: Superintendent, Lewisville ISD

By: _____
Name: Kay Waggoner
Title: Superintendent, Richardson ISD