RESOLUTION
of the
Katy Independent School District
Board of Trustees

REGARDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Whereas, Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) is one of the fastest growing school districts in the Greater Houston area and the state of Texas; and

Whereas, Katy ISD is among the top performing school districts in the state; and

Whereas, students enrolled in the public school system across the country must adhere to the federally-mandated standardized testing requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation; and

Whereas, ESEA and NCLB require students enrolled in the public school system to be assessed in Reading, Math and Science; and

Whereas, the state of Texas has instituted additional high-stakes assessments in Writing and Social Studies; and

Whereas, Texas has historically required more state-mandated, high-stakes tests for high school graduation than most other states under its assessment program1; and

Whereas, there has not been a measurable improvement in college readiness as a result of the state assessment program2; and

Whereas, assessments designed to provide detailed diagnostics that assist students in their learning would ultimately improve student outcomes and their trajectory for advancement; and

Whereas, local school boards do not currently have the authority to override the state’s requirement for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) and STAAR End of Course (EOC) assessments; and

1 Data from Center of Education Policy: “State High School Exit Exams: A Policy in Transition” 9/12
2 National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) report “A New Measure of Education Success in Texas: Tracking the Success of 8th Graders Into College” Feb 2012
Whereas, quality instructional time is often compromised to prepare students for standardized high-stakes testing; and

Whereas, over the past twenty years, legislative efforts to address assessment and accountability have only increased the number of high-stakes tests students must take over the course of their K – 12 public school education; and

Whereas, certain proposed legislation in the 84th Legislative Session addresses the need to eliminate all state assessments that are not federally mandated under ESEA and NCLB in order to provide relief to schools and re-establish local control with regard to student assessments; and

Whereas, such legislation should also recognize the need for districts to administer local assessments in lieu of those state assessments that are proposed for elimination; and

Whereas, such local assessments would not be considered high-stakes and would have no bearing on state, nor federal accountability ratings; and

Whereas, these local assessments will be based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and funded by the state; and

Whereas, Texas Education Code Section 28.001 states "It is the intent of the legislature that the essential knowledge and skills developed by the State Board of Education under this subchapter shall require all students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to read, write, compute, problem solve, think critically, apply technology, and communicate across all subject areas"; and

Whereas, Texas Education Code Section 39.022 states “The State Board of Education by rule shall create and implement a state-wide assessment program that is knowledge- and skills-based to ensure school accountability for student achievement that achieves the goals provided under Section 4.002”; and

Whereas, Texas Education Code Section 4.002 states “To serve as a foundation for a well-balanced and appropriate education: GOAL 1: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the reading and writing of the English language. GOAL 2: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the understanding of mathematics. GOAL 3: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the understanding of science. GOAL 4: The students in the public education system will demonstrate exemplary performance in the understanding of social studies.”

Resolved therefore, that Katy ISD, as a responsible community of educational leaders with a united awareness, respectfully implores and supports our legislative representatives to act; and be it

Resolved further that, in light of school districts’ current challenges with high-stakes testing, that state assessments unaffiliated with federal requirements be eliminated; and be it
Resolved further that the Legislature ensure a deliberate process to safeguard the integrity of the curriculum and students' educational experience by requiring local assessments, supplemented or funded by the state, in lieu of those state assessments that will be eliminated.

Signed this 30th day of March, 2015.

Bryan Michalsky
President
Katy ISD Board of Trustees