

RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE,
URGING SUSPENSION OF
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AS A
CRITERIA OF TEACHER
EVALUATIONS FOR
SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021**

RESOLUTION: 20-005

**REQUESTED BY:
BOB THOMAS, SUPERINTENDENT**

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:



DEPUTY LAW DIRECTOR

BOARD APPROVED: 11/11/2020
DATE

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education is elected by the people of Knox County to govern the Knox County Schools, with T.C.A. § 49-2-203 authorizing local boards of education to govern their respective districts;

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education acknowledges that student achievement and evaluation of teacher effectiveness are vitally important criteria for accountability and for measuring the district's progress toward achieving its vision, goals and objectives;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create unprecedented challenges for educators to develop consistent learning environments for students due to the possibility of students moving back and forth from a virtual to in-person platform;

WHEREAS, since Knox County Schools has resumed in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year within safety guidelines, it is critically important to support our students and teachers to provide as much instructional time as possible while limiting potential disruptions when practical;

WHEREAS, given on April 2, 2020, Governor Bill Lee signed Public Chapter 652 which allowed the Tennessee Board of Education to promulgate necessary rules to address issues created by COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year, the State established a precedent for suspending certain requirements as the pandemic situation warranted;

WHEREAS, given on April 9, 2020, the Tennessee Board of Education passed a series of emergency rules to address disruptions caused by COVID-19 (including changes to Evaluation Rule 0520-02-01) such that: 1) "Assessments administered in fall 2019 (would) not be used for any (growth) score calculation," and 2) "Educators (would) not be required to complete portfolio submissions;"

WHEREAS, given on August 12, 2020, the Knox County Board of Education approved a resolution, and continues to support, urging "the State of Tennessee to suspend all state required student assessments" and to "suspend the student growth measure and/or any other portion of teacher evaluations directly related to student assessments for the 2020-2021 school year in order for educators to focus instead on student safety, health protocols, remediation, and recouping lost instruction time from the prior school year;"

WHEREAS, given on September 3, 2020, Dr. Penny Schwinn, Tennessee Department of Education Commissioner, communicated to the Knox County Board of Education that "the state would need both a federal waiver and the legislature" to "make changes to existing state law in order to waive any requirements related to assessment;"

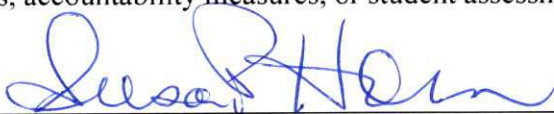
WHEREAS, given on October 16, 2020, Governor Bill Lee publicly stated, "Given the unprecedented disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic and extended time away from the classroom has had on Tennessee's students, my administration will work with the General Assembly to bring forward a solution for this school year that alleviates any burdens associated with educator evaluations and school accountability metrics,"

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Education hereby urges the State of Tennessee to remove student achievement data, including student growth measures and student assessments, as a criteria of teacher evaluations for school year 2020-2021 so that: 1) educators will not be negatively impacted for lack of student performance resulting from lost instruction time from the prior school year, and 2) educators will not be negatively impacted from potential disruptions to student learning resulting from managing student safety and health protocols within the duration of the pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pending the approval of this resolution, a copy will be forwarded to Governor Bill Lee, Commissioner Penny Schwinn, and the Knox County Legislative Delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution in no way diminishes the importance of the Board's vision, goals, or objectives related to the academic achievement of the students of Knox County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution in no way diminishes the Board's expectation for high academic standards, accountability measures, or student assessments to inform effective instruction.


Chair, Knox County Board of Education

11-11-2020
Date

Approved by
Knox County Board of Education

11/11/2020 