



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goose Creek CISD joins movement against High-stakes testing

Members of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees voted on May 14 to approve a resolution condemning the "over reliance on standardized high-stakes testing as the only assessment of learning that really matters in the state and federal accountability systems" which the resolution states is "strangling our public schools."

High-stakes testing, the resolution further states, is "a perversion of its original intent" that imposes "relentless test preparation and boring memorization of facts to enhance test performance" that accomplishes "little more than stealing the love of learning from our students."

With the board's unanimous vote in favor of the resolution, which contains strong language that states using standardized testing as the only means of assessment of student achievement has put a stranglehold on student learning in Texas districts, the district joined a growing number of districts across the state that have passed resolutions with similar language.

According to the Texas Association of School Administrators, which drafted the resolution, 426 school districts representing more than 2.6 million Texas students had adopted the resolution as of May 2.

The resolution calls on the Texas Legislature "to re-examine the public school accountability system in Texas and to develop a system that encompasses multiple assessments" that would reflect "greater validity, uses more cost-efficient sampling techniques...and more accurately reflects what students know."

A key paragraph in the resolution states that the board's goal is to transform Goose Creek CISD in accordance with tenets set out by the Texas Association of School Administrators.

In a document entitled "Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas," the group calls for:

- the restoration of local authority in governing education
- an end to standardized testing
- less federal interference with local school districts
- the Department of Education's role be restricted to research and more.

Read the entire resolution [here](#).

The resolution is strongly worded and highly critical, stoked by the years of frustration and the immediate need for a course correction in public education.

In addition to the hundreds of districts in Texas, a conglomeration of national advocacy groups and non-profits are trying to push a similar resolution on a national level. School districts in several states, including Florida and Pennsylvania, are also considering passing a similar resolution.

The movement has gained popularity after Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott told State Board of Education members earlier this year that standardized tests have become a "perversion" in the education system.

"What we've done in the past decade," said Scott, who will resign from his post this summer, "is we've doubled down on the test every couple of years, and used it for more and more things, to make it the end-all, be-all.

"You've reached a point now of having this one thing that the entire system is dependent upon. It is the heart of the vampire, so to speak."

Scott also described "the assessment and accountability regime" not as a cottage industry but "a military-industrial complex."

His comments came in the midst of this year's rollout of the new State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness, a supposedly more rigorous accountability system that many educators have complained requires them to dedicate close to 40 days out of a 180-day academic calendar to student testing.

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