

Brazosport Independent School District Resolution of the Board Regarding State Accountability

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide disaster regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Texas Commissioner of Education announced that administration of STAAR exams would be canceled for spring 2020, and school districts and campuses would be assigned ratings of "Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster" for 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Texas Governor issued Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation through this action and in accordance with Guidelines from the President ordered the temporary closure of all Texas school districts;

WHEREAS, assessment standards for the spring of 2021 can be adjusted; however, data from those assessments will not be interpretable with respect to previous years' assessment data;

WHEREAS, academic growth will not be possible to accurately calculate for spring 2021, as students will not have previous year STAAR scores from spring 2020;

WHEREAS, academic growth accounts for 50% of an elementary or junior high campus's Domain 3 score, which will have an adverse effect on overall accountability ratings for those campuses;

WHEREAS, external research shows that, historically, extended school closures negatively affect student achievement in math and reading;

WHEREAS, internal research shows that there are significant academic gains made at the end of each school year, which may not be present now with the extended school closure;

WHEREAS, exceptions have been made to school accountability in the past when campuses were greatly impacted by natural disasters such as Katrina, Rita, and Harvey;

WHEREAS, it is still unknown what additional adjustments to the educational process will be necessary to start the 2020-2021 school year to address the social, emotional,

and physical health impact upon students when they return to school in whatever format that may be;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Brazosport Independent School District, that the STAAR Test should be cancelled and the State accountability should be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year to allow districts to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19.

Passed and approved on this 17 day of August, 2020 by the Board of Trustees.

By: Mason P. Howard

Name: Mr. Mason Howard

Title: Board President

By: Patty Sayes

Name: Mrs. Patty Sayes

Title: Board Member

By: Scott Schwertner

Name: Mr. Scott Schwertner

Title: Board Vice President

By: Liz Cuellar

Name: Mrs. Liz Cuellar

Title: Board Member

By: Jerry Adkins

Name: Mr. Jerry Adkins

Title: Board Secretary

By: Chris Dunn

Name: Mr. Chris Dunn

Title: Board Member

By: Joe Rinehart

Name: Mr. Joe Rinehart

Title: Board Assistant Secretary