

RESOLUTION
of the
Franklin Special School District
Board of Education
Franklin, Tennessee

TO SUPPORT
HOLDING TEACHERS, SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS HARMLESS
FROM THE USE OF 2015-2016 TNREADY AND RELATED DATA
IN TEACHER EVALUATIONS AND SCHOOL & SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS the Franklin Special School District Board of Education is the local governmental body responsible for providing a public education to the students and families of Franklin, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS this is the first year of TNReady, tests aligned with the Tennessee standards but not comparable to the former TCAP assessments; and as such, this year's TNReady data are more appropriate for establishing baselines than for evaluating, categorizing, or judging performance; and

WHEREAS three weeks before online testing was to begin, guidelines for first-year English Language Learners' participation in the social studies assessment were announced; four days before online testing was to begin, districts were offered a choice of paper/pencil modality because success of online administration was doubtful; on the initial day of testing, within the first hour, multiple districts had no choice but to shut down the assessment because of a failure of the online platform; and the same day, the decision was made that online administration would be abandoned and paper/pencil modality would be used; and

WHEREAS this is the first year the assessment will be divided into different calendar administrations with the first portion administered almost three months earlier than previous years, requiring approximately seventy percent of instructional content to be compacted; first year of measuring writing integrated into the content assessments as opposed to measuring writing ability in a separate assessment; first year of online MSAA math and English Language Arts assessment for the most severely cognitively disabled students; and first year of a new accountability system with new district determination levels, and a new method of determining school rankings; and

WHEREAS staffs have been trained in administering online assessments yet will be administering paper/pencil tests, and students have prepared seven months for online testing yet will be using paper/pencil testing to determine the level of student learning and school effectiveness; and

WHEREAS for two years, many school districts have had their scores reviewed because of erasures, yet the extended response paper/pencil format requires students to take time to transfer answers from the test booklet to the answer booklet, increasing the likelihood of mistakes, erasures, and incompletions; and

WHEREAS delays in the delivery of tests have caused some school districts to postpone testing for days, causing stress for all concerned; and

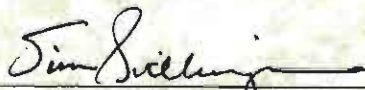
WHEREAS cut scores used to determine proficiency levels for student, teacher, school, and district accountability will be decided after test administration, and final results are not expected until October; and

WHEREAS given recent, unexpected changes in the administration of the new assessment, the Governor has proposed additional flexibility for teachers as it relates to TNReady results; yet, administrators, superintendents, schools, districts, and communities will continue to have their effectiveness judged by the state assessment results;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that because of the potential impact of the changes and variability in preparation and administration of the 2015-2016 TNReady assessment on the results of that assessment and subsequent impact on the economic growth of communities, the Franklin Special School District Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee Department of Education to provide a full waiver from: public release of grade bands, school, and district results based on TNReady data.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Franklin Special School District Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly and the Tennessee Department of Education to consider the impact of the 2015-2016 data upon future years of student growth scores, administrator evaluations, and school and district accountability determinations and as a result, to use the 2015-2016 TNReady data for baseline purposes only and not to evaluate, categorize, judge, compare, rank, or assign labels or grades to students, administrators, schools, or districts.

APPROVED by the *Board of Franklin Special School District* this the *fourteenth day of March, 2016*.



Tim Stillings, Board Chair




David L. Snowden, Ph.D., Director of Schools


Supported by Board members of the Franklin Special School District as signed below:



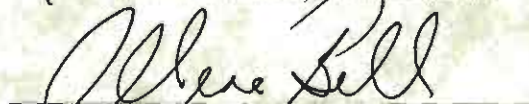
Robert Blair, Vice Chair



Kevin Townsel, Board Member



Robin Newman, Treasurer



Alfena Bell, Board Member



Alicia Barker, Secretary

