

RESOLUTION 2020/10-01  
A RESOLUTION URGING THE TN LEGISLATURE TO SUSPEND ALL STATE-  
REQUIRED STUDENT ASSESSMENTS FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

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WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Lakeland School System is elected by the people of the City of Lakeland to govern Lakeland municipal schools; and T.C.A. 49-2-203 authorizes local boards of education to govern their respective districts;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Lakeland School System acknowledges that student assessment and teacher evaluations are important components 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 create consistent learning environments for students due to the possibility of students moving back and forth from a virtual to in-person platform at different points in the school year;

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

WHEREAS, given on April 2, 2020, Governor Bill Lee signed Public Chapter 652 which removed the requirement for TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program) and TNReady testing, end-of-course examinations, and other related testing and assessments; the Chapter also suspended the student growth measure of teachers' evaluations, with other teacher evaluation exemptions, and allowed the State Board of Education to promulgate necessary rules to address issues created by COVID-19 in the 2019-2020 school year. As such the State has established a precedent for suspending standardized testing as the pandemic situation warrants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Lakeland School System hereby urges the State of Tennessee to suspend all state-required student assessments, including but not limited to TNReady testing, and suspend the student growth measure and/or any other portion of teacher evaluations directly related to student assessments for school year 2020-2021 in order for educators to focus instead on student safety, health protocols, remediation, and recouping lost instruction time from the prior school year.

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 Lakeland School System.

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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Lakeland Board of Education, Lakeland, Tennessee on this 5th day of October, 2020, public welfare requiring it.

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Kevin Floyd, *Board Chairman*



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Ted Horrell, *Superintendent*

ATTEST



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Jessica Millspaugh  
*LSS Board Recorder*