

**RESOLUTION OF THE ELIZABETHTON CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
IN SUPPORT OF A MORATORIUM ON STATE STANDARDIZED TESTING
FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that can lead to serious illness or death and spreads through close contact among individuals; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 12, 2020, Governor Bill Lee declared Tennessee to be in a state of emergency until June 30, 2020, pursuant to Executive Orders 14 and 36, due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, beginning on March 16, 2020, Tennessee schools were closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, in response to requests made by Governor Bill Lee that they close to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2020, the Tennessee General Assembly approved the cancellation of state standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year, due to the statewide closure of schools and subsequent lack of standardized instruction being delivered to students; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2020, the Tennessee State Board of Education approved Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-01, which requires Tennessee school districts to provide students in grades one (1) through twelve (12) access to six and one half (6 1/2) hours of instructional time each school day during the 2020-2021 school year, even if there are school closures or disruptions related to outbreaks of COVID-19; and approved Emergency Rule 0520-01-17-01, which requires Tennessee school districts to provide students in grades one (1) through twelve (12) access to six and one half (6 1/2) hours of instructional time each school day during the 2020-2021 school year, even if there are school closures or disruptions related to outbreaks of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, by successive Executive Orders signed by Governor Bill Lee, Tennessee continues to remain in a state of emergency until at least October 31, 2020, and COVID-19 continues to spread at a high rate in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee schools, in order to comply with State Board requirements, will likely have to engage in remote learning, in whole or in part, during the 2020-2021 academic school year due to the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Board Emergency Rules 0520-01-17-01, Tennessee school districts are required to each create and implement their own plans to facilitate continuous learning in light of the continued spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be implementing different plans for learning from county to county across the state for the 2020-2021 school year, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, Tennessee students had been away from

their schools for approximately five (5) consecutive months, including approximately two (2) months of disrupted instruction during the extended closure at the end of the 2019-20 school year; and

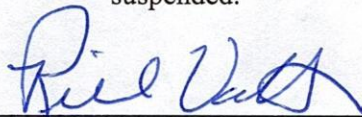
WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts will be focused not only on student growth and safety, but also on recoupment of academic and social and emotional skills lost during the extended closure.

WHEREAS, Tennessee school districts must focus not only on their student's academic growth and safety but also on the social and emotional toll on students and their families caused by the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, school districts continue to face both staff and student absences caused by exposure to and diagnosis of COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved unanimously by all Board Members on the 12th day of October, 2020 that the Elizabethton City Board of Education:

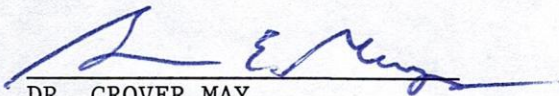
Supports and respectfully requests a moratorium on state standardized testing and accountability associated with such testing for the 2020-2021 school year, to include end-of-year/end-of-course examinations and formative assessments throughout the year. These actions will allow educators to focus instead on student safety and learning as well as their emotional and social development. The Elizabethton City Board of Education requests that, if state standardized testing does continue in some format for the 2020-2021 school year, the results of that testing be used as metrics of student progress, rather than to determine district/school accountability or district rankings and scores statewide, due to the disparity in learning methods that will be used across the state in light of COVID-19. In addition, we request that student growth measures and/or any other portion of teacher evaluations directly related to student assessments for the 2020-2021 school year be suspended.



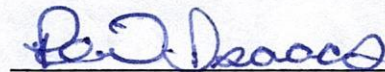
MR. RICHARD VANHUSS
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS



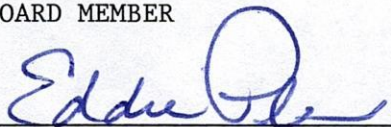
MS. RITA BOOHER
BOARD CHAIR




DR. GROVER MAY
BOARD MEMBER



MR. PHIL ISAACS
VICE-CHAIR



MR. EDDIE PLESS
BOARD MEMBER



MR. DANNY O'QUINN
BOARD MEMBER