

**RESOLUTION OF THE STEWART COUNTY 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

WHEREAS, by Executive Order 50 signed by Governor Bill Lee on June 29, 2020, the state of Tennessee is to remain in a state of emergency until at least August 29, 2020 and COVID-19 continues to spread at a rapid 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 Rule Emergency Rule 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, based upon the needs of their students and COVID-19 outbreaks in each county; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee students will likely face significant academic and behavioral regression upon returning to school, having lost approximately two (2) months of standard instruction and attendance due to the extended closure; and

WHEREAS, when schools resume in August 2020, students will have spent approximately five (5) consecutive months out of school; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved unanimously by all of the Board Members on this 13th day of August, 2020 that the Stewart County 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 examinations and formative assessments throughout the year. The Stewart County 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 rankings and scorings statewide, due to the disparity in learning methods that will be used across the state in light of COVID-19 and focus on recoupment of students' academic and social/emotional skills lost during the extended school closure.

STEWART COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: Billy Sexton, Board Member

By: Lesa Fitzhugh, Board Member

By: Bobby Morgan, Board Member

By: Darrell Gillum, Board Member

By: Lana Sanders, Board Member

By: Gary Dacus, Board Member

By: Robert Beecham, Board Member