

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUSPENDING STATE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE
2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, the [REDACTED] Board of Education (the “Board”) of [REDACTED] School District (the “District”) believes that schools should be held accountable to the public for providing rigorous and effective academic programming to District students; and

WHEREAS, the Board is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors to District schools and, to that end, is adhering to the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control, the Colorado Governor’s Office, [the local health department], and the Colorado Department of Education (“CDE”) related to controlling the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic (the “Pandemic”); and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic has created unforeseeable obstacles to student learning, including access to teachers, materials, and support services provided by the District and has resulted in numerous disruptions to school and the academic success of students; and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic has made instruction and learning eminently more difficult in both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and

WHEREAS, the State has properly made the health and safety of all students and staff a priority during the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the mental health of students and staff has been seriously and negatively impacted by stress and concerns related to the Pandemic and would be unnecessarily exacerbated by mandatory, high-stakes state assessments this spring, particularly in light of the academic difficulties teachers and students are already facing due to the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the CDE correctly suspended state-level assessments for the 2019-2020 school year due to the difficulties school districts, school staff, and students faced, including the cessation of in-person learning, due to the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, disruptions to in-person learning have continued for the majority of the 2020-2021 school year for school districts across Colorado, and the services they provide, have been severely disrupted due to the Pandemic during the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that high-stakes, standardized assessments this spring would fail to fairly assess student achievement and growth, given the Pandemic’s disruption to education, and would result in a loss of instructional time just as students are finally able to return to in-person learning throughout Colorado, at a critical moment in students’ education; and

WHEREAS, we continue to value our local interim assessments that give actionable and immediate data to inform instruction, intervention, and learning loss. These interim assessments and data could be used as data points for student academic growth during this critical time; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that, just as CDE's decision to suspend assessments for the 2019-2020 school year was in the best interest of students, schools, and school districts, suspension of state assessments for the 2020-2021 school year is in the best interest of students, schools, and school districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby supports and recommends that CDE suspend state assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS _____ day of _____, 2021.

President, on behalf of
the Board of Education

Date

**Modeled after the Board of Education of Westminster Public Schools' Resolution 2021-01-12*