

Resolution Endorsing a Path Towards Holistic Assessment of Student and School Achievement

WHEREAS, having recently released scores reflecting the final AIMS assessment our students will take in Arizona, as our state transitions to a new assessment to measure the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards, the TUSD Governing Board extends its appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all employees and students to academic achievement and

WHEREAS, the TUSD Governing Board recognizes that 97% of the letter grade given by the Arizona Department of Education to individual schools is based on this one test, and that the pressure of “high stakes” testing, nationally, has transformed education so that the majority of what we do with our students can feel like preparation for this one-shot test, and

WHEREAS, the TUSD Governing Board recognizes that over the last several years, state budget cuts and standardized testing have narrowed the curriculum, experiences and opportunities for writing, art, music, PE, science and social studies in our classrooms, as we have focused on reading and math skills to be assessed by such standardized tests, rather than broader content knowledge, perspectives, languages, and intelligence of the whole child, and

WHEREAS, the TUSD Governing Board appreciates that despite extenuating circumstances out of the control of a classroom teacher-- such as socio-cultural and economic factors, home language and literacy--can factor into a child’s learning and achievement on this one-time test, committed, talented and caring individuals in our district beat the odds each and every day that they work with our students.

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, endorsing a more holistic measurement of school success and student performance and seeking a diversified assessment system to allow individual Districts to more fully develop skills & knowledge, multiple perspectives, languages and intelligences of the whole child. We advocate that the Arizona Department of Education reduce the weight given to standardized test when giving a school a letter grade.

We endorse a system in which the State factors in other measurements to give a better growth index for the school, teacher, whole child and his/her annual

progress. With this resolution, the TUSD Governing Board proudly announces the letter grades for each of their schools for the 2013-2014 academic year, and we ask that the Arizona Department of Education, State Legislature, business leaders, parents and community members work with us as we embark on the next step of school assessment and accountability, hand-in-hand with the *whole* child as we move forward.

Adopted this ____ day of August, 2014

Tucson Unified School District Governing Board

Adelita S. Grijalva, President

Kristel Ann Foster, Clerk

Michael Hicks, Member

Dr. Mark Stegeman, Member

Cam Juárez, Member