

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE TO AMEND LETTER GRADING OF TENNESSEE SCHOOLS

**PROPOSED BY:
AMBER ROUNTREE**

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, by March 2016 legislative approval and signature of Governor Bill Haslam of House Bill 155 and Senate Bill 300, has directed the Tennessee Department of Education to develop a grading system for assigning letter grades A through F on the state report cards for Tennessee schools, implementation of which will begin with the 2017-18 school year; and

WHEREAS, after operating under federally-mandated No Child Left Behind guidelines, Tennessee received a waiver of NCLB standards and adopted Race To The Top guidelines, which were subsequently replaced by the new federally-mandated Every Student Succeeds Act in an effort to close achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, a rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools, and districts creates a false impression about students, ignores the unique strengths of each school, and unfairly reduces each student's worth to the school's assigned grade;

WHEREAS, at least 16 states have implemented a similar rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and, to date, there is no definitive research that suggests these ratings have improved student or school performance; and

WHEREAS, the reporting of TNReady scores for the 2016-17 school year was delayed and also resulted in numerous scoring errors, thus calling into question the reliability and validity of all TNReady scores; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the House considered HB 449 to amend the previous legislation to assign an overall performance label which aligns to the district determination rather than a single letter grade; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

The Knox County Board of Education hereby urges the Senate to amend legislation SB 535 in the upcoming session by assigning a school level designation that aligns with the district designation, rather than assigning a letter grade to each school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Knox County Board of Education hereby urges Governor Haslam, the State Board of Education, and the Tennessee General Assembly to consider a moratorium in using any school or district designation based on data obtained via the TNReady assessment which was administered in School Year 2016-17.

ADOPTED BY THE ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2017.

Board Chair Date

Approved as to form and correctness:

Law Director Date

Witness:

Notary Public Date

My commission expires: _____