

A RESOLUTION URGING THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO WAIVE ALL STATE MANDATED STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, REQUEST A WAIVER FROM STATE MANDATED TESTING FROM THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DECLARE THE WORTHINGTON SCHOOL BOARD'S SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILLS 67 AND 40, WHICH WOULD FULFILL BOTH REQUESTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, it is the statutory duty of the Worthington School District to deliver the educational programs and services to the school children of the Worthington School District, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board are elected by the Worthington school community to ensure that students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged, and

WHEREAS, the elected board of education is responsible to the community including taxpayers, parents and other patrons, as well as the state, and

WHEREAS, the state of Ohio requires annual, statewide standardized testing in accordance with federal mandates, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created instructional challenges and forced educators to quickly adapt to new practices during the 2020-2021 school year, and

WHEREAS, the administration of standardized tests may create additional, unnecessary health risks to students and District staff, and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio waived standardized testing last Spring when learning was disrupted for less than half of the academic year, and

WHEREAS, the Worthington School District and its educators already perform formative testing on every District student – tests that during a pandemic are far more helpful and accurate in addressing student need, and

WHEREAS, the results of the statewide, mandated standardized testing won't be known until after the school year is ended and will be of no help to District students or the District's need to potentially address any disrupted learning opportunities District students may face, and

WHEREAS, the education professionals in the Worthington School District are best able to assess those COVID-19 related needs better than an out-of-state standardized test developer, and

WHEREAS, the Worthington School District and its educators are committed to ensuring every District student is able to succeed, and

WHEREAS, the worst introduction to in-person instruction this Board can imagine would be a battery of biased standardized tests given to students that will be useless in determining what those students need to learn academically, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

The Board of Education urges the State of Ohio to not require the Spring 2021 statewide standardized assessments to be given and the Ohio Department of Education to apply to the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver from federal standardized testing requirements. And the Board fully supports House Bills 67 and 40, which would do exactly those two things.