

**Board of Education  
Colorado Springs School District 11  
RESOLUTION 2015-5**

**REGARDING STATE MANDATED TESTING**

**WHEREAS**, Colorado is a local control state, where local school boards are constitutionally granted broad discretion in setting curriculum and standards for their students; and

**WHEREAS**, local control is a fundamental tenet of education in Colorado and is a critical factor in establishing and operating quality educational programs in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 has used that broad local control to pursue world-class education innovations and the most rigorous academic standards, in order to prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace and global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Colorado has enacted legislation which mandates that students be tested in a particular manner using only those instruments approved by the State; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the tests mandated by the State of Colorado deprive students and educators of substantial instructional time, without providing actionable data in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, tests mandated by the State for use in 2015 are the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers ("PARCC") and Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) and;

**WHEREAS**, the impact of administering both local and statewide assessments takes an inordinate amount of time away from instructional time, focusing on high-stakes standardized tests; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 is committed to full accountability in measuring the outcomes it produces in terms of student success, so long as those measurements meaningfully assess the skills, knowledge, and attributes that students in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century need to be prepared for college, or the vocation of their choice, and to be responsible and informed citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 believes that it is in the best position to design authentic assessments that will provide valuable feedback to students and aid educators in determining student progress in all educational competencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education is empowered to set educational standards and priorities to meet the needs of the students of our district, as described in Article IX, section 15 of the Colorado Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education believes in an instructional model which is learner-centered and focused on research-based practices, promoting "the art of teaching," engagement, critical thinking, and post-secondary and workforce readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers and principals create a balance of appropriate progress monitoring and benchmarking to assist children with the acquisition of knowledge and stronger achievement needs to exist; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 is not focused on the test score, but rather the day-to-day interaction and engagement of students acquiring new knowledge and skills. The moment when students cross the stage, we are sealing the deal of our commitment to learning and achieving from prekindergarten through 12th grade. Our purpose is to increase the value of that handshake, and we are accountable for such; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 's classrooms, schools, and departments play a role with student success - a graduate ready for continued learning, the work force, and life. District 11 commits to the development of the whole child and desires to worry less about the time taken from direct instruction of tested areas and embrace extracurricular activities, elective classes, and special area subjects, as they contribute to the foundation of the tested areas; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 believes an appropriate focus on current legislation needs to take place. While efforts in current legislation are viewed optimistically, the magnitude of legislative changes has created a tipping point. So much change so quickly has created the condition wherein no single initiative has been afforded the deep, meaningful implementation required to do it well. Legislation includes:

- SB 09-163 -- Education Accountability Act - Accreditation and School Performance Framework
- SB 08-212 -- CAP4K – Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness
- SB 10-191 -- Teacher and Principal Effectiveness Act (and tenure reform)
- READ Act -- Colorado Early Literacy Act ; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 believes in the continuous cycle of standards-based teaching and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 believes in assessing students before, during, and after instruction; and

**WHEREAS, Colorado Springs School District 11:**

- Believes in testing the right skills, concepts, and competencies necessary to determine if students are prepared for a world yet to be imagined – the next generation graduate.
- Believes that not all children need to take the state test to determine standards acquisition as a school or district.
- Believes that teachers need time to adapt to new standards and new tests.
- Believes that if we are to inform parents and school community that our students are prepared “for a world yet to be imagined,” the next level of learning, and the workforce, we need to annually assess differently; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 supports the legislation statements contained in HB-14-1202

- The interaction between assessments required by school districts and public schools and the statewide assessments
- The impact that administering both local and statewide assessment systems has on the amount of time students spend taking assessments and school districts and public schools spend planning and administering assessments
- While assessments that are common across public schools and school districts generate valuable information about what is possible, what is working well, and what needs to be addressed in the broader educational system, it is valuable to study the efficacy of Colorado's current statutory assessment requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado Springs School District 11 believes we need to commit to the Colorado Academic Standards. We need to test what is most important, test right, and use observations from our progress monitoring and benchmarking to guide our instruction. We need to accept the accountability that goes along with the congratulatory handshake – sealing the deal for our students when they cross the stage and graduate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education, district superintendent, and administrative and teaching staff are accountable to our community; then

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education respectfully requests that the Colorado State Board of Education allow Colorado Springs School District 11 to:

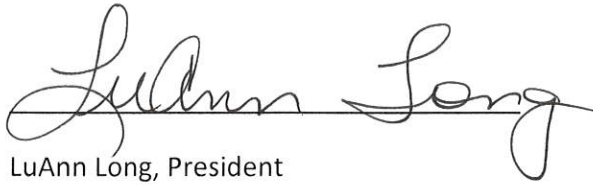
1. Hold Colorado Springs School District 11 accountable for the safety and education of its students.
2. Modify the current administration of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) with a random sample of students in District 11, adhering to the Federal requirements only.
3. Allow parents the choice to opt out of testing, without Colorado Springs School District 11 being penalized for that local decision.
4. Continue to pause on the teacher effectiveness measures the current legislation permits, until Colorado Springs School District 11 has clearly defined measures.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education also expresses its desire to fully implement, within the three year period of time, alternative annual student assessment and accountability systems that are based on the next generation graduate and is developed through collaboration with District 11 staff and community with support from experts in the field of assessment and instruction. Thus, creating what the D11 community would define as a meaningful and relevant alternative to the current state assessment tools and accountability process. Colorado Springs School District 11 welcomes criteria from the State Board of Education for such systems.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the official seal of said school district to be hereunto affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014.



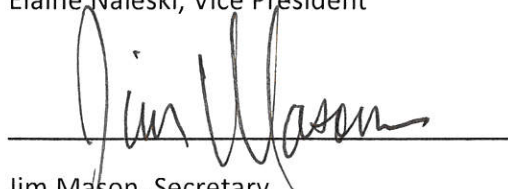
Dr. Nicholas M. Gledich  
Superintendent of Schools



LuAnn Long, President



Elaine Naleski, Vice President



Jim Mason, Secretary

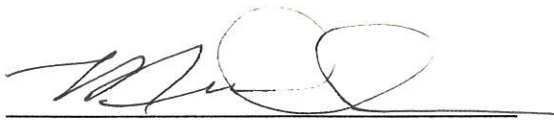
ATTEST:



Nora Brown, Treasurer



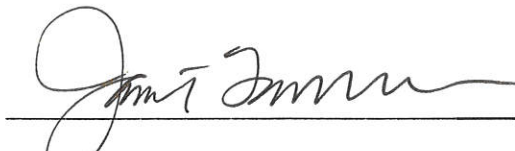
Linda Mojer, Director



Bob Null, Director



Julie Rene Stevens,  
Secretary to the Board of Education



Janet Tanner, Director