

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS, CALLING UPON THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO REPEAL THE RATING SYSTEM UTILIZING “A” THROUGH “F” GRADES FOR SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS AND DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.**

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has enacted legislation that requires the Commissioner of Education to implement a public school rating system that would assign A through F grades to schools and districts beginning with the 2017-18 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, at least sixteen (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**, in a recent statewide survey conducted by the State Board of Education, an overwhelming majority of Texans do not want high-stakes, standardized test scores to serve as the primary basis for a public school rating system; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority (55%) of the A through F grades are based on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR), a high-stakes, standardized test that does not accurately measure student learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the STAAR provides little meaningful information to guide student learning, inform teachers, or report academic progress to parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner’s proposed rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts includes five (5) domains and numerous unrelated indicators to determine a single grade, leaving the public with an invalid, disconnected reflection of school quality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioner’s proposed 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; and

**WHEREAS**, we embrace meaningful accountability that informs students, parents, and teachers about the learning needs of each student and each school; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe our state's future prosperity relies on a high-quality education system that prepares students for college and careers, and without such a system Texas' economic competitiveness and ability to attract new business will falter;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRYAN, TEXAS, THAT:**

PART 1: The City Council hereby calls on the Texas Legislature to repeal the rating system utilizing A through F grades for schools and districts and develop a community-based accountability

system that empowers school districts to design their own internal systems of assessment and accountability that, while meeting general state standards, allows districts to innovate and customize curriculum and instruction to meet the needs and interests of each student and their communities.

PART 2: The City Council finds this new system should reduce the use of high-stakes, standardized tests, encompass multiple assessments, reflect greater validity, and more accurately reflect what students know and can do in terms of the rigorous standards.

PART 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Mary Lynne Stratta, City Secretary

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Andrew Nelson, Mayor

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Janis K. Hampton, City Attorney