

A Resolution of the Olmsted Falls Board of Education
Regarding State & Federally Mandated Student Assessment

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Olmsted Falls City School District, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, met in Regular session on March 19, 2015, and adopted the following Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of education in the Olmsted Falls City School District is to provide educational experiences that empower its future graduates to become life-long learners with an identified career path to succeed as a citizen in a global society; and

WHEREAS, student readiness for meaningful opportunities beyond high school in the work force or through postsecondary options requires high expectations for their learning and success, access to high school and college credit plus course work that provides career pathway direction yet remains flexible enough to accommodate a student's changing interest; and

WHEREAS, the Olmsted Falls Board of Education, fully supports and charges our school administrators and teachers with inspiring and empowering all students to achieve their full potential to become meaningful contributors in a global society; and

WHEREAS, common core state standards are designed to provide educators the flexibility to use their professional judgment to design instruction aligned to the standards, and should support the development of educator-designed assessments and projects that actually support student learning; and

WHEREAS, new tests associated with the common core state standards could have unintended, negative consequences that could overshadow any opportunity they offer in producing more timely and useable feedback for students, parents, and educators; and

WHEREAS, the over-reliance on high-stakes testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in and contribute to our democratic way of life in an increasingly global society and economy—particularly in a district with a history of providing a high quality education to its students in the manner that the Olmsted Falls City School District does; and

WHEREAS, the over-emphasis on high stakes testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning, reducing the amount of valuable teacher/student instructional time, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermining school climate; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities,

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing, in its current form, serves as a significant barrier to the Olmsted Falls City School District fulfilling its locally determined vision and mission of inspiring and empowering students as identified in the Olmsted Falls City School District's Strategic Plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Olmsted Falls City School District Board of Education commits to working with educators to reduce the volume of State and Federally mandated assessments that students must take and to reduce the time educators and students spend on meaningless test preparation drills; and

Let it also be resolved that the Olmsted Falls City School District Board of Education will support the elimination of state and federally mandated standardized tests for students before they enter third grade; and

Let it also be resolved that the Olmsted Falls City School District Board of Education will listen to the voices of students, parents, and educators to collaboratively develop plans to make sure assessments provide timely and useful information to students, parents, educators, and schools; and

Let it also be resolved that the Olmsted Falls City School District Board of Education commits to working with educators and other stakeholders to reexamine public school accountability systems in this district and state, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment that do not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, is used to support students, improve classroom instruction and therefore improve the district's schools; and

Let it also be resolved that the Olmsted Falls City School District Board of Education will advocate to the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Legislature for more local control over its own District Assessment Program that will be more balanced and grounded in research and best practices; and

Let it also be resolved that the Olmsted Citizens desire the district to have more local control over its assessment program that not only allows clear and timely feedback to the citizens in the Olmsted Communities as to how well its students are being prepared to meet the mission and vision set by its stakeholders, but serves the dual purpose of providing the students and educators within the Olmsted Falls City School District with clear, timely and effective feedback that can be acted upon to improve student growth and achievement when there is still time to assist; and

Let it be resolved that the Olmsted Board of Education believes that the current State and Federal involvement in the assessment of Olmsted Students over emphasizes the value of summative assessments and puts more importance on "untimely" feedback that serves the purposes of the bureaucrats, the testing companies and those that do not have the best interest of the Olmsted Students in mind.

Upon the roll call on the passage of the Resolution, the vote was as follows:

Jim Cwik, President Bob St. Holliday, Vice President
Wanda S. Parkowicki
Joseph Bertrand

The foregoing is a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education of the Olmsted Falls City School District, Cuyahoga County, Ohio showing the passage of the resolution set forth.

Mary S. Hullman
Treasurer

March 19, _____, 2015
Date