

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1
REGARDING PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO
STATE-MANDATED ASSESSEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Douglas County School District (“the Board”) honors the choices parents make when it comes to directing the education of their students; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that, for a variety of reasons, a number of parents of Douglas County School District are refusing to subject their students to some or all of the assessments mandated by the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the Board has supported the Superintendent in instructing building leaders to honor the choices of parents in refusing state-mandated assessments for their students by not penalizing in any way, the student, parent, teacher or school for the decisions parents make to refuse the state-mandated assessments while still complying with applicable state law regarding the administration of state-mandated assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Board supports current legislation co-sponsored by Douglas County’s own Sen. Holbert and Sen. Scheffel, (SB15-223) that would codify the parent’s right to excuse their student from state-mandated assessment, and prohibit penalties, to students, parents, teachers, and schools for the choice that a parent makes to excuse the student from the state-mandated assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Board also values and honors the autonomy of the District-authorized Charter Schools to, through the independent decision-making of their governing boards and building leaders, may currently, and in the absence of directive legislation in the future such as SB-15-223, choose to treat parent decisions to refuse state assessments in a manner differently than this Board expects of the neighborhood schools under the control of the District leadership.


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Douglas County School District Board of Education hereby directs its legal counsel to draft a Board Policy reflecting the Board’s belief and direction that students, parents, teachers and schools should not be penalized for a parent choosing to refuse the administration of a state-mandated assessment to their student.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such policy, to the extent possible under applicable law, provide for, at a minimum, (a) means for parents to easily communicate their decision to refuse administration of state-mandated assessments; (b) counting parent refusals of state-mandated assessments as excused absences for the student; (c) prohibitions against retaliatory actions such as withholding of student privileges, activities, class placement or grade advancement; (d) prohibitions against improper incentive available only to those students who take the state-mandated assessments, such as parties, homework relief, or extra recesses; (e) maintenance of assessment security for those students taking the state-mandated assessments and encouragement for schools to provide alternate activities as resources may allow; (f) clear language that the refusal policy applies only to state-mandated assessments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in order to ensure that parents and students of District Charter Schools have a clear understanding of a school's expectations with respect to participation in state-mandated assessments, it is now the policy of the Douglas County School District Board of Education that any new charter authorization and all charter renewals will require a clear description of that school's policy related to participation in state-mandated assessments. In order to meet this requirement the Board encourages District Charter Schools to adopt, as soon as practicable, either the Board Policy or to develop its own policy. In order to meet the requirements of this section the school's policy must directly address provisions (a) through (f) above. The Charter School's policy should be in writing and the school must provide with it a plan for communicating it to that school's parents.

Approved this 21 day of April, 2015, by a vote of 6-0.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

By: 
Kevin P. Larsen, President
Board of Education

Attest:

By: 
Secretary, Board of Education