

RESOLUTION NO. 22-2012

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS
ENCOURAGING THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO REEXAMINE STANDARDIZED
TESTING OF TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, reliance on standardized, high stakes testing as the major assessment of learning that in the state and federal accountability systems may inhibit the education system's ability to transform a traditional system of schooling into a broad range of learning experiences that better prepares our students to live successfully and be competitive on a global stage; 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 and to attract new business may suffer; and

WHEREAS, designing more engaging student learning experiences requires changes in the culture and structure of the systems in which teachers and students work; and

WHEREAS, what occurs in classrooms every day should be student-centered and result in students learning at a deep and meaningful level; and

WHEREAS, we support the vision for all students to be engaged in meaningful learning activities that cultivate their unique individual talents, to provide for student choice in work that is designed to respect how they learn best, and to embrace the concept that students can be both consumers and creators of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, only by developing new capacities and conditions in districts and schools, and the communities in which they are embedded, will we ensure that all learning spaces foster and celebrate innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication and critical thinking; and

WHEREAS, these are the very skills that business leaders desire in a rising workforce and the very attitudes that are essential to democracy; and

WHEREAS, we do not oppose accountability in public schools, but believe that the system of the past will not prepare students to lead in the future;

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

PART 1. That we, the City Council of the City of Abilene, Texas, calls on the Texas Legislature to reexamine the public school accountability system in Texas.

PART 2. That the members of the Texas Legislature work to introduce and adopt legislation that will develop an education accountability system that encompasses multiple

assessments, reflects greater validity, uses more cost efficient sampling techniques and other external evaluation arrangements, and more accurately reflects what students know, appreciate and can do in terms of the rigorous standards essential to their success.

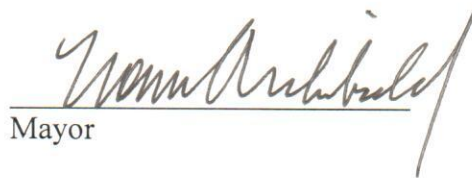
PART 3. That any standardized testing used within the state of Texas should enhance the role of teachers as designers, guides to instruction and leaders, and nurture the sense of inquiry and love of learning in all students.

PART 4. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage.

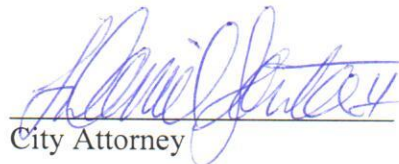
ADOPTED this 13th day of November 2012.

ATTEST:


City Secretary


Mayor

APPROVED:


City Attorney