



## JEFFCO DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION REGARDING SUSPENDING HIGH-STAKES TESTING (March 2021)

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Public School's District Accountability Committee (DAC) believes that schools should be held accountable to the public for providing rigorous and effective academic programming for the students of Jefferson County Public Schools (the District); and,

WHEREAS the District Board of Education is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of all students, staff, and visitors to District schools and, to that end, is adhering to the recommendations and guidelines set from the Center for Disease Control, the Colorado Governor's office (the State), the Jefferson County Public Health Department, and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) related to controlling the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS the pandemic crisis has led to a significant disruption in learning for all students in Colorado and the District; and,

WHEREAS students and teachers have dealt with increased uncertainty, anxiety, and stress in both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and,

WHEREAS students have missed valuable instructional learning time during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and,


WHEREAS the State has properly made the health and safety of all students and staff a priority during the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS the mental health of students and staff has been seriously and negatively impacted by stress and concerns related to the pandemic and would be unnecessarily exacerbated by mandatory high-stakes assessments this spring, particularly in light of the academic difficulties teachers and students are already facing due to the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS the DAC continues to value the District's local interim assessments that give actionable and immediate data to inform instruction, intervention, and learning loss, which could be used as data for assessing student academic growth during the critical time of the continuing pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while the DAC supports a full suspension of the administration of the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state assessments for the 2020-2021 school year, we recommend that the Board comply with state and federal mandates for testing, with limitations to ensure the least amount of in-person testing possible and adjustments as allowed by a waiver submitted by the Colorado Department of Education, if approved; that the District's interim assessments be used for measuring student academic growth in the District's Unified Improvement Plan; and that the District comply with state law in notifying families about opting their children out of testing.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16 day of March, 2021,

  
\_\_\_\_\_, DAC Chair, on behalf of the DAC  
Carsten Engebretsen