



TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

October 6, 2015

In an effort to keep our local, state and federal elected officials apprised of issues impacting the Leander ISD community (greater Austin area), I want to share with you a copy of a resolution passed unanimously by the Leander Independent School District's Board of Trustees. The resolution calls on the state to modify the current high-stakes testing system to focus on campus and district performance results of core elements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content areas; to narrow the scope of the TEKS so that students can dig deeper into a specific content area to develop connections that will provide for higher-order thinking skills development; and to allow school districts to have more local control of assessment. In addition, 795 members of our community signed the resolution electronically, in support of the Board's position.

Attached is a copy of the executed resolution and community signatures.

Sincerely,

Veronica V. Sopher
Assistant Superintendent of Community & Governmental Relations

LeanderISD.org

204 W. South Street • P.O. Box 218 • Leander, TX 78646

Phone: 512-570-0000 • Fax: 512-570-0054

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Leander ISD is one of the fastest growing school districts in the state of Texas, with more than 36,000 students enrolled in the 2014-15 school year; and

WHEREAS, LISD is considered a destination district and as such is recognized for its outstanding academic, extra- and co-curricular programs, community engagement and student and staff achievements; and

WHEREAS, as an independent school district in the State of Texas, LISD believes that state assessment and accountability are an important marker to help students, teachers and parents navigate a student's academic development; and

WHEREAS, we also believe that it is *not the sole descriptor* of a student's achievement; and

WHEREAS, we believe that a comprehensive view of a student's learning must be used to guide decision-making to support continuous improvement for the student and the system; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the components of that comprehensive view should be driven primarily by local administrators, local school boards, teachers and parents; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the current high-stakes system used in Texas is too complex and redirects the focus from the student's learning and growth, to test results for a campus' accountability; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the system should focus on campus and district performance results of core elements of the essential knowledge and skills for each content areas rather than attempting to assess all aspects; and

WHEREAS, certain portions of the essential knowledge and skills would be more appropriately addressed at the local district level, with funding support for these local assessments; and

WHEREAS, as a supporter of narrowing the scope of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), we believe that a student's time is better spent digging deeper into a specific content area so as to develop connections that will provide for higher-order thinking skills development and allow time for students to make connections as they explore more deeply; and

WHEREAS, even though increasing numbers of parents demand the option to remove their students from STAAR testing assessments, there is currently no process in place for parents to trigger an opt-out if they have concerns or objections to the STAAR; and

WHEREAS, we believe this establishes an adversarial relationship with parents that is counterproductive to building a partnership with parents to maximize student learning; and

WHEREAS, LISD supports parents' rights to help direct the education of their children; and

WHEREAS, even though it is the goal of LISD staff to reduce the stress of high stakes testing, students continue to place undue pressure on themselves, leading to a portion of students exhibiting physical and emotional signs of stress.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LISD welcomes legislation that would streamline the TEKS and allow districts to have more local control of assessment; and be it

RESOLVED further that we do not support a high-stakes testing system that puts undue stress on students, teachers, families and local school districts; and be it

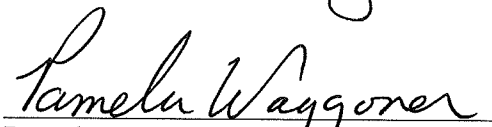
RESOLVED further that as a community, we believe learning should be positive and should foster wondering and a growth mindset; and be it

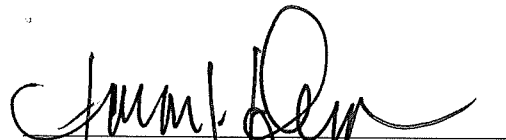
RESOLVED further that we work to ensure that every student exits our system with the same joy for learning they had when they entered our system without economics determining success; and be it

RESOLVED further that we work to ensure our students have the skills required to pursue 21st century careers and are college and career ready; and be it

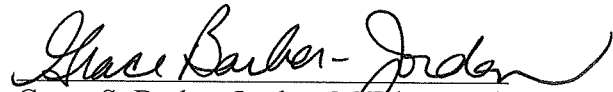
RESOLVED further that we are committed to leading our students to a bright future.

Signed this 02 day of June 2015.


Pamela Waggoner, President


Aaron Johnson, Vice President


Don Hisle, Secretary


Grace S. Barber-Jordan, M.Ed., Member


Trish Bode, Member


Russell Bundy, Member


Will Streit, Member



At the June 2, 2015, Leander ISD Board of Trustees meeting, the Board unanimously passed a [resolution](#) calling on the state to modify the current high-stakes testing system to focus on campus and district performance results of core elements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content areas; to narrow the scope of the TEKS so that students can dig deeper into a specific content area to develop connections that will provide for higher-order thinking skills development; and to allow school districts to have more local control of assessment.

In total, 795 electronic signatures were collected on a petition in support of the Board's resolution.

Jennifer Bailey	Judi Thomas	Katie Ann Prescott	Kristen Duffey	Becky Barrett
Sandie Harvey	Stacy Smith	Kendall Guess	Jennifer Farrow	Tammie Mclean
Kathleen Royer Wood	Larissa Gomez	DeAnna Martin	Kate Noren	Linda Sekula
Christopher Harvey	Michelle Peter	Christina Heim	Carlos Valenzuela	Debra Lormand
Diana Cook	Debra Sue Bever	Marina Solis	Dawn Young	Jennifer Ruschhaupt
Brandee Spencer	Jennifer Nicholson	Molly Foss	Sharon Powell	Ellen Bickling
Eileen Delisi	Anne M Whaley	Melanie Boze	Jeannette Whitt	Beth Espinosa
Carl Abseck	Steve Whaley	Melissa Moritz	Brittney Boling	Chelsea Pacheco
Laura Krause	Autumn Whaley	Michelle Berlinger	Debra Allred	Kari Lambert
Brian Parmley	Wyatt Hahn	Kristy Avila	April Saint	Alicia Mersiovsky
Jennifer Krawczyk	Karen Fenter	Marguerite Swilling	Shila Bruce	Tamara L. Vogel
Thomas Papa	Albert Roberts	Kim Gogulski	Kristen nichols	Andrew M. Vogel
Laura Coleman	Nichole Holmes	PS Jones	Cathy L Bourn	Kimberly Jewell
Helen D. Pangonas	Patsy Goodwin	Susan Hansen	LeAnn Moody	Lindsey Lyons
John A. Pangonas, Jr.	Sage Miller	Andrea Patton-Reedy	Debbie Tropiano	Richard Singleton
Phillip Michael Sozansky	Kim Tagge	Amanda Embry	Olivia Newman	Melyssa Greene
Natascha Walker	Becky Calzada	Ernie Andrea Greene	Debi McNiff	Ellen Deckinga
Yvonne Davila-cortes	Shirley Isbell-Prieto	Napoleon Greene	Shea Davis	Susan Murray
Greg Graham	Cinda Flynn	Katherine Adams	Tamra Roberts	Carrie Carey
David Seaborn	Angela Mestemaker	Laura Herzog	Michelle Vancil-Osborne	John D Tinsley
Devin Bowman	Christina Giulvezan	SJ Schwartz	Jamie Blaylock	Jennifer Houston
Randy M. Preston	Molly Segrets	Nina Walker	Mike Davis	Nannette Scott
Carrie Chilek	Tiffany Meehan	Stephanie Beasley	Deanna Natera	Dana Curr
James Openshaw	Jennifer Colmam	Christie Stinson	Janice Rogers	Tana Tinsley
Melissa Waggoner	Julie Martinez	Rachel Elton	Raul Natera	Marla Sumner
Amber Danhauser	Sabrina Flinn	Maryleigh Hutcheson	Val Olivas	Lindsey Lambert
Sandy Handrick	Peggy Gallagher	Melissa K Selden	Jennifer Severinson	Caitlin Henson
Michele Wineland	Sharon Hughes	Elizabeth Weltzin	Deana Read	Elizabeth Cummins
Paul Daly	Lauren Meeks	Jennifer Moore	Kristina Matthys	Patrick Girard
Janet Howard	Scott G. Judge	Christine Burch	Kristie Hubbard	Laura Folks
Ellen Pruitt	Lauren Houser	Anna Kroese	Lora Kean	Carol Russell
Amanda Powell	Kirstin Morales	Reagan Habermacher	Kevin Hodges	Meghan Esau

Kristi Jeffcoat	Courtney Bennett	Tamala Davies	Rebecca Elchelberger	Mark Folks
Shawn Jeffcoat	Steve Crawford	Tina McCosky	Robin Kennon	Andrea Angelo
Ivy Desjardin	Blythe Campbell	James Sullivan	Leslye Irwin	Denise L. Hall
Jennifer Gonzalez	Karen Papa	Lauren O'Farrell	Tracey McConkey	John Angelo
John Sloan	Christine Mauer	Jill Sandal	Hope Holder	Lauren Gitlin
Carrie Grove	Brian Moritz	Cara Massey	Jaren Holder	Amy M. Kelly
Carolyn Melendez de Lafuente	Joey Vaughan	Brian Kaisner	Christa Alvarado	Kelly Ford
Maren Hewes	Ladonna Handcox	Alicen Herrin	Tasha Wellington	Jayne Matthews
Wendy Jungmann	Alison Sills	Scott Herrin	Anne Philipson	Kim Houser
Teresa Orkun	Jennifer Barton	Krislyn Mann	Olga Perez Soriano	Robin Albert
Cyndi Howell	Michele Curby	Melissa Elizondo	Ernesto Del Valle Lehne	Marlo Rockhold
Elizabeth Burk	Kristi Di Lauro	Kimberly Francis	Beth Mohler	Catherine Calzada
Tonya Davis	Lisa Skidmore	Jessica Klingsick	Tracy Noble	Laura Ryon
Stacie Baldwin	Melynda LeMaire	Leslea Mcreynolds	Kathy Smith	Erin McRae
Kathryn Harvey	Todd LeMaire	Kelly Longaker	John Smith	Shaelene Araguz
Lesley Welch	Jo Anne Sala	Elizabeth Muenzler	Dianna Simons	Melissa Gitlin
Carol Huard	Deborah Simmons	Tammy Rodriguez	Stacey Culloty	Samantha Hull
Krystn Goulet	Kellie Lambert	Erica Wood	Ryan Gross	Kristie Woodworth
Lynn Lopez	Jennifer Turquette	Kristin West	Rebecca Koch	Jamie Hobbs
Nicole Torres	Katy Benefield	Howard West	Theresa Allen	Elizabeth Kite
Shannon Townsend	Luis Valdez	Suzanne Russell	Shannon Hempel	Elena LaMonica
Lenny Tropicano	Christina A. Linnell	Talia Aviles	Krista Crouch	Jennifer Hunter
Lance R. Little	JoLisa Hoover	Kelley Forbes	Danyell Allen	Melissa M Twardowski
Patricia M. Stoneham	Elissa Lindsey	Jacob Forbes	Tonya Wilkinson	Shannon Wilson
Stephanie Richard	Wendy Irwin	Becky Burt	Leila Lewis	Jonathan Wilson
Aundrick Richard	Lori Eldridge	Stephanie Featherstone	K Tristan	Margaret Barrick
Holly Lyond	Dan Linnell	Kim Loftin	Veronica Ritter	Brandon Aldrich
Barbara Hearne	Todd Leupold	Christina Hollander	Maria Hughes	Lisa Rosseisen
Beth Welge	Lindsey Ervi	Susan W. Borenstein	Tammy Bird	Rhonda Hodges
Emily Scott	Erin Gaines	Amanda Stuart	Terri Breaux	Holly Edgar
Nicole Oestmann	Temre Sharpe	Ami Harman	Kim Rodriguez	Katie McEuen
Robin Nickell	Belinda Wells	Katherine McClellan	Elizabeth J. Kalamaha-Wynn	Jeffery Kelley
Alicia Harris	Laurie Randel	Jennifer Collins	Megan Mitchell	Kim Saucedo
Jennipher McFarland	Debbie Slocombe	Karen Cummings	Casey Gunter	Sherry Valencia
Gail Kaisner	Carolyn Scalan	Jennifer Castillo-Vázquez	Megan Peterson	David Valencia
Vanessa Kemper	Kerri Doughty	Virginia Wilson	Julie Walker	Michael Valencia
Jean Marquez	Bonnie Fruge	Kristine Tomasovic	Loni Meyers	Jennifer Valencia
Louann Gayle	Andrea Marie Pearson	Christine R Muat	Angela K Mestemaker	Patricia Bisbee
Patricia Ephlin	Karen Saxer	Rosie McGill	Cynthia Hughes	Lori Woods
Karen L. Turner	Tammy Eldaher	Stefanie Petersen	Kurt Widdows	Tammy Blackmon
Anna Griffin	Allison Dyer	Heather Woehl	Lisa Davis	Nisa Sharma
Annemarie Mehlow	Lela Talley	Margaret Marquez	Megan Longmore	Vicky L. Draper
Jo Golub	Lisa Fuller	Priscilla W. White	Elaina Dillon	Cathy White
Laurel Taylor	Stacy Ebmeier	Kimberly Boes	Sarah Martin	Deana Cady
Donna Nino	Steven Ebmeier	Vicki J. Cagle	Heidi Taylor	John Graham
Ashley Auchey	Karly Gonzalez	Hilary Winans	Jennifer Sharp	Kyle D. Blanscet
Aldo Ferrino	Mandi Cheslock	Brian Winans	Holly Raffaelli	Phyllis Cartwright
Erica Ellner	Francesca Romans	Janna Walsh	Stacey Mullen	Chad Taylor
Doug Mullen	Nina Steinle	Kim Schramm	Tracey Day	Kimberly Mazulo

Christina Smith	Lauren Fewx	Angela Marak	Olga Angelo-Day	Camille S. Toomey
Stephanie house	Amy Warrick	Tim Griffin	Kimberly Pritts	Lori M Erdley
Kim Hymna	Laura Armour	Pam Nicholas	Clint Walker	Martha P. Rodriguez
Lindsay Funk	Nicole Peterson	Darby Tobolka	Julia Nations	Rachel Ogden
Steve White	Misty R. Gage	Bethany Rhoades	Tiffany Asha	Gayla Mulligan
Denise Fuller	Shonda Barnett	Stacey Jurecka	Rosanne Slan	Jennifer Mackie
Marcy Hoyt	Aimeé Mayer	Stephany Gaines	Sarah Hyde	John Mackie
Lindsay Heideman	Matthias Mayer	Annette Fontaine	Amy McFaul	Ken Erdley
Kelly Svienty	Deborah Rodriguez	Jennifer Andjelic	Jacqueline Scoggins	Alyssa Brown
Kelly Bouldin	Kelly Merritt	Clara Jimmie	Denae Gerik	Theresa Vo
Marie Jimenez	Janae Leffler	Jacob Dellinger	Sarah Flores	Angela G Newberry
Nicole Jones	Chris Waggoner	Angelica Casarez	Becki Flores	Nathan C Newberry
Jennifer Francis	Dawn Davis	Alicia Foster	Zach Gerik	Marty Kelly
Jeremy Francis	Suzanne Johnson	Charlotte Kiser	Joseph Flores	Lisa Pepperell
Susan Olsen	Donna Kleikamp	Terry Rudd	Debby Barnes	Perry Pepperell
Kristine Buckingham	Amy Goss	Isabel Rosas	Anna Bertram	Pam Weimer
Jeff Olsen	Erin Carroll	Gilberto Rosas	Anna Schultheis Bertram	Linda McCormack
Diane Rausch	Kimberly Rolloff	Jason Beard	Amy T Mintner	Shana Bruce
Elizabeth Hostetler	Daniel Carroll	Nicole Beard	Rebecca Linn	Charles Bruce
Charles Hostetler	Dawn Wright	Jessica Harris	Betsy Gonzales	Yvonne Michele Brooks
Dana Moore	Dianne Hall	Maurice Harris	Maria Woods	Matt Prewett
Lisa Thomas	Bridgette Labrador	Anne Boone	Kandece Embrey	Kimberly waltmon
Daniel Nichols	Jill Opella	Deborah Bailey	Pamela Ward	Deanna Barrilleaux
Angie Richardson	Sara Coons	Lee-Ann Rojas	Jennifer Freeman	Jenny Phillips
Kelly Smith	Karen Sanchez	Alicia Logan	Matthew Crawford	Karen Clary
Abigail Batten	Lindsey Williams	Deanna Horn	Caroline Heyl	Kelly Carl
Sarah Marcoulides	Christina Morales	Debi Granado	Kelly Sanford	Michael Carl
Tracey Rice	David Morales	Leslie Riley	Andrew Peterson	Tanya Clarkson
Dannielle Cantrell	Joshua Kane	Lynsey Crawford	Laura Mioton	Melinda Robinson
Betsy Harris	Mary Beth Huerta	Carolyn Pierce	Mandi Burkett	Linda Charlemagne
Wendy Gonzaba	Jessica Dean Weiss	Christine Peterson	Sandy Liptak	Vanesa Kemper
Tara Stewart	Karen D. Cash	Lisa Summers	Joshua Calvin Barnes	Amanda Garrett
John J. Gonzaba	Barbara Ixba	Pam Cotten	Joshua Hoag	John Garrett
Andrea Hutlock	Nicole I. Schomaker	Carolyn Wood Brandes	Rachel Hair	Kathy Bauer
Rebecca McClellan	Beth LoSurdo	Ashley Swindle	Ruth Johnson	Debi C. Hoyt
Chuck Hostetler	Debbie LoSurdo	Janet Smith	Jerome Rutledge	Amy Kingsbery
Justin C Huddleston	Jessica Sigur	Byrl Ann Leeker	Chris heim	Stacy Leeber
Christina Dohring	Leslie Castaneda	Christy Van Ausdall	Karen Harper	Victor Leeber
Julie N Guthrie	Carla Osuna	Karen Godwin	Paula Pruitt	Karin P. Johnson
Kris Gauthier	Marc Scott	Sheri Hawthorn	Roy Minney	Michael Moya
Courtney Ahrenholtz	Stephanie O'Neil	Lisa Segura	Sue Hart	Barbara Stockton
Kimberly Roberts	Elizabeth J. Whales	April Rabold	Anne Wentworth	Jeanette Courtright
Abby Kennell	Christine Hansanuwat	Mark D. Brown	Gib Wentworth	Jennifer Runkel
Mary Mayo	Ryan Hansanuwat	Kerri Hartwick	Allison Solberg	Higinio Pena
Amy Gilley	Isabel Fricano	Alexandria Gormley	Brittany Podolak	Emily Riordan
Amie Chase	Gino Peña	Jason Gormley	Aislinn Mellor	Michael Fricano
Brian Chase	Christi Muto	Vani Richter	Rebecca Degarmo Poonwah	Angela Richardson
Agnes Beasley	Erika Moerbe	Bill Richter	Alyson Igau	Tracy Murphy
Robin Godwin	Casey R Fisher	Sophia Richter	Amy Hunter	Anna Kirsten Mulligan

Gloria Dholakia	Christopher Knight	Caleb Richter	Julie L. Kimball	Calvin Thomas
Neil Dholakia	Evelyn Crisp	Amber Ryder	Andreia Simon	Terri Heil
Devan Dholakia	Vanessa Rankin	Craig Ryder	Shane Sabo	Jessie Ruckel
Julian Dholakia	Aaron Langdon	Rob Preston	Karin Johnson	Loretta Robinson
Zandra Lopez	Nicole Clemente	AnnKathryn Scott	Michelle Harborth	Robert Robinson
Kathleen Redwine	Jayne O'Dell	Connie Miears	Craig Harborth	Carol Wickersham
Donna M. Reynolds	Scott O'Dell	Janet Brewster	Angela Johnston	Ernest Wickersham
Zoe Newberry	Laura Eudy	Kelly Fitzgerald	Dan Allred	Connie Moreland
Suzanne Welton	Katie Pulcini	Jennifer C. Lambert	Renee Williams	Chellis Evers
Heather Cassity	Misty Lothringer	Katherine S Engstrom	Michael Williams	Andrew Evers
Daniel Grant	Lauren Hollas	Kelly Sullivan-Garcia	Charles Alexander	Talin Evers
Jordan Aleskin	Sandra Thompson	Monica Story	Rayla Rucker	Erin Oehler
Karen LaCombe	Natalie Mckenzie	Sherry Middleton	Dan Rucker	Brent Mills
Kendell Winters	Natalie Hill	Rosalba Castrejon	Joaid P. Elmer	Vidonni Gonzales
Paige Allen	Kirsten Kline	Dana Bilich	Nicole "Nikky" Bissonnette	Alexandra McStay
Joe Allen	Heather Reeves	Chris Bilich	Darren Grissom	Jaime Burke
Jennifer Phillips	Lisa Holmes	Brenda Cruz	Ken Breslow	Norma Roby
Brian St.Clair	Justin LeBlanc	Kelly Cottrell	Julie Bielamowicz	Lola Charles
Libby Reeves	Jim Riordan	Erin Burgess	Jared Schmeisser	Kelle Sosa
Megan Matos	S. D. Hughes	Monique Morgan	Myan Nelson	Heath Robinson
Leah Wiseman	Marissa Henis	Catherine Pennington	Shana Duke	Debbie Aramburu
Kristen Duplechian	Samantha Cinti	Mike Mendoza	Judith Golden	Debora Weeks
Lane Bentley	Phyllis Chessher	Erin Anderson	Marcia Back	Susan Scholz
Stephen Alexis	Austin McEwen	Travis Weir	Robin Chbaro	Natalie Smith
Michaela Potts	Stephanie Honeycutt	Sarah A. Smith	Zach Herzer	Elizabeth Whitney
Sylvia Flores-Kisner	Cindy Modrall	Martina Christian	Marissa Gonzales Saucedo	Kimberly Bentley
Amanda Pope	Niyema Onaghise	Jeffrey Rumminger	Lily Hatter	Brian Hankey
Shannon Filippelli	Rochelle Roberts	Jennifer Ferguson	Kristen Hotea	Cindy Rollman
Amber Holley	Karen Riddle	J Mauldin	Anne Hankey	Misty Mooney