



College Station Independent School District

Success...each life...each day...each hour

To: CSISD School Board
From: Eddie Coulson, CSISD Superintendent
Date: March 8, 2012
Subject: E-1

Background

CSISD believes that students should be taught to be critical thinkers, problem solvers and to possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive citizens in our community and in the world. With such beliefs, CSISD has tried to de-emphasize the importance of state tests, as state tests are generally not the most accurate measure of students' knowledge and skills or their ability to critically think and problem solve.

After thirty years of a state testing system that was originally designed to inform districts of student progress, the testing system has morphed into the 'end all' for schools, districts teachers and administrators. Almost all school accountability measures are centered on *The Test*; thus, preparing for *The Test* drives curriculum development, instructional delivery and much of the staff development districts offer. Recently, Texas Education Agency Commissioner Robert Scott called the Texas testing system a 'perversion' of its original intent.

Clearly, CSISD is not opposed to accountability. We want to be held accountable for our academic, financial and extra-curricular performance; however, we want an accountability system that includes much more than a test. Grades, student participation, student projects, college readiness, student academic growth over time, student discipline, tax-rate, financial efficiency and other measures should play a part in our accountability to our local public and the state, and we want an accountability system that moves in that direction.

The attached resolution is a strong statement against allowing state testing to continue to drive the accountability system for districts and is a move forward for CSISD as we communicate clearly our expectations as a local school district.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the CSISD Board adopt the *Resolution Concerning High Stakes, Standardized Testing of Texas Public School Students*.