



**RESOLUTION OF THE EANES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING STAAR TESTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY RATINGS DURING THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

WHEREAS, the future of Texas relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares 5.4 million Texas students for college, university, trade school, careers, jobs, citizenship, and lifelong learning to strengthen Texas’ economic strength within the United States’ economy;

WHEREAS, in March 2020, due to an unprecedented nation-wide public health threat and statewide spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Greg Abbott ordered the temporary closure and cancellation of classroom instruction for all Texas public school districts for the Spring 2020 semester;

WHEREAS, in March 2020, due to an unprecedented nation-wide public health threat and statewide spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Texas Commissioner of Education cancelled STAAR assessments for the Spring 2020 semester and school districts and campuses will receive an accountability rating of “Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster” for 2020;

WHEREAS, Texas public schools are currently preparing for a potential blended learning environment and/or continued remote learning for the Fall 2020 semester; and

WHEREAS, 2021 STAAR test results and data will be an unreliable evaluation of students, teachers, administrators, and schools, as traditional learning has been suspended due to COVID-19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eanes Independent School District Board of Trustees strongly urges Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Legislature to suspend STAAR testing and the resulting accountability ratings for the 2020-21 school year to allow districts to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19.

Adopted this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020, by the Eanes ISD Board of Trustees.

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Jennifer Champagne  
Eanes ISD Board President

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John Havenstrite  
Eanes ISD Vice President

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Jason Paull  
Eanes ISD Secretary

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Ellen Balthazar  
Eanes ISD Board Member

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Christie Bybee  
Eanes ISD Board Member

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Heather Sheffield  
Eanes ISD Board Member

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James Spradley  
Eanes ISD Board Member



July 14, 2020

Governor Greg Abbott, TEA Commissioner Mike Morath, Rep. Vikki Goodwin, Rep. Donna Howard, Sen. Kirk Watson:

Eanes ISD continues to make plans for fall 2020 and remains committed to implementing the Ready to Re-Engage (R2R) plan that protects staff and students while also providing an effective instructional program both in-building and remote. Over the past four months, our team has worked tirelessly to construct a flexible strategy that gives employees and families options.

Last week's [announcement from the TEA](#) is disappointing because it does not balance student needs with staff concerns as well as constraints placed on the local school district. In recommending "on-campus instruction must be offered for all grades served by the campus every day for every student whose parents want them to access on-campus instruction," TEA fails to acknowledge the wishes of both staff and community, nor does it recognize how essentially eliminating social distancing in classrooms could profoundly affect the health of adults in our schools.

Further, TEA's decision may have a significant effect on our ability to provide adequate staffing and manage class sizes, which eliminates any efforts to control social distancing.

Therefore, we strongly advocate for the following items:

- suspension of in-person school and allowance for 100% virtual learning until the seven-day hospitalization average is five or less, the threshold set by the [Austin-Travis County](#) public health agency for a stage 2 response;
- flexibility to realistically minimize classroom ratios and provide social distancing;
- the suspension of STAAR and the A-F system for the 2020-21 school year;
- additional funding to supplement costs incurred by districts to provide safe and effective learning; and
- a commitment to allocate current or future federal money specified for schools as a supplement to existing funding commitments by the state.

We ask you to please support local choices made by school districts, including the thousands of staff and families within Eanes ISD who rely so heavily on your decisions and guidance. We want schools to reopen – that is our mission and our passion - but we must also be mindful of many variables, while keeping the health and safety of students, teachers and staff at the heart of everything we do.

Respectfully,

Dr. Tom Leonard  
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Jennifer Champagne  
Eanes ISD Board President

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