



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**State Board of Education Statement Opposing A-F Grading of Schools
and in Support of a Non-letter Grading Accountability System**

Whereas, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) signed into law December 10, 2015, was heralded as the federal government, among other things, giving back to states the ability to determine and even rethink their school accountability system;

Whereas, ESSA does not require states to implement an A-F school grading system;

Whereas, an A-F school grading system significantly increases the high-stakes nature of the statewide assessment and thereby negatively affects the education of students;

Whereas, the measurements in an A-F school grading system are arbitrary;

Whereas, the weight given to measurements in an A-F school grading system is arbitrary;

Whereas, an A-F school grading system can assign poor grades to schools where significant learning is being accomplished and where parents are pleased with their school;

Whereas, the American Statistical Association cautions against using high-stakes standardized tests to evaluate teachers and schools;

Whereas, historically, Michigan's primary form of school accountability has been democratically elected local school boards, citizen participation with school leadership, and access to school choice options;

Whereas, a non-letter grading accountability system can give meaningful measurements to parents and taxpayers;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the State Board of Education opposes an A-F school grading system, including component letter grades, and further;

Finally, be it resolved, the State Board of Education supports a statewide, non-letter grading accountability system that provides families and caregivers meaningful data to make educational decisions on behalf of their children. This data could include such things as class size, teacher retention, and availability of arts, athletics, vocational programs, and services supporting special education and other at needs students as well as completion rates, scholarship attainment and employment outcomes of high school graduates.

Adopted March 14, 2017

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