

Resolution

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of local school boards to ensure that all students are educated for success in a 21st-century global society; and

WHEREAS, school boards must ensure that their district operates from clear, measurable student learning standards and improvement goals; adequate resources are allocated to improve instruction; and there is public accountability for improved results for students; and

WHEREAS, statewide assessments are given to Iowa students annually as a consistent measure of how well students are learning in the critical subjects of reading, math and science; and

WHEREAS, it is important that Iowa's statewide assessment system be aligned with high expectation content standards, accurately describe student achievement and growth, and provide valid, reliable and fair measures of student progress toward college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Iowa Legislature directed the Department of Education to establish an assessment task force to review and make recommendations for a new state assessment that would better meet the needs of Iowa schools, school districts, and Iowa's state accountability system; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Assessment Task Force was selected for their expertise in education and included representatives of educators as well as business and parents; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force used professional research and review and sound criteria to evaluate potential sources and options for a state assessment, offering their final report and recommendations in December 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force recommendation of Smarter Balanced Assessment offers not only year-end summative assessment but the option of aligned interim assessments that provide educators with actionable information throughout the year to improve instruction, and

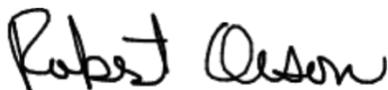
WHEREAS, the Iowa State Board of Education is initiating rule-making processes to implement recommendations of the Task Force, and these processes call for public input;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Leadership Group of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa, do affirm our support of recommendations made by the Iowa Assessment Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the State Board of Education to move forward in implementing these recommendations expeditiously so that Iowa schools have adequate time to prepare to administer a new assessment by spring 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the Iowa Legislature to ensure full and appropriate funding is allocated to support Iowa public schools in reaching high standards through improved instruction, sound assessment and the technology required to administer the assessments electronically.

I, the undersigned, certify that this resolution was approved and adopted the 27th day of October, 2015, by the Leadership Group of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa.



Chair, Leadership Group, RSAI