

## BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION 2021-01-12

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of Westminster Public Schools (the “District”) believes that schools should be held accountable to the public for providing rigorous and effective academic programming to District students; and

WHEREAS, the Board is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of all students, staff and visitors to District schools and, to that end, is adhering to the recommendations and guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control, the Colorado Governor’s Office, Tri-County Health Department and the Colorado Department of Education (“CDE”) related to controlling the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic (the “Pandemic”), and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic has created unforeseeable obstacles to student learning, including access to teachers, materials and support services provided by the school district and has resulted in numerous disruptions to school and the academic success of students; and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic has made instruction and learning eminently more difficult in both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and

WHEREAS, the State has properly made the health and safety of all students and staff a priority during the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the mental health of students and staff has been seriously and negatively impacted by stress and concerns related to Pandemic and would be unnecessarily exacerbated by mandatory, high-stakes state testing this spring, particularly in light of the academic difficulties teachers and students are already facing due to the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the CDE correctly suspended state level testing for the 2019-20 school year due the difficulties school districts, school staff and students faced, including the cessation of in-person learning, due to the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the 2020-21 school closures for in-person learning have continued for the majority of the 2020-21 school year and school districts across Colorado, and the services they provide, have been severely disrupted due to the Pandemic during the 2020-21 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that high-stakes, standardized testing this spring would fail to fairly assess student achievement and growth given the Pandemic’s disruption to education and would result in a loss of instructional time just as students are finally able to return to in-person learning throughout Colorado, at a critical moment in students’ education; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that, just as CDE’s decision to suspend testing for the 2019-20 school year was in the best interest of students, schools and school districts, suspension of state testing for the 2020-21 school year is in the best interest of students, schools and school districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby recommends that the CDE suspend state testing for the 2020-2021 school year.

DATED AND SIGNED by the Directors of the

Westminster Public Schools

this \_\_ day of January 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan McCoy, President

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Joseph Davidek, Vice President

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Kenneth Ciancio, Secretary

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Max Math, Treasurer

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Christine Martinez, Board Director

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Dr. Pamela Swanson, Superintendent