

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION relating to school accountability.

2 WHEREAS, the high-stakes nature of state assessments has driven local school  
3 districts to require standardized testing above and beyond state and federal requirements  
4 as a means of improving student performance on state assessments; and

5 WHEREAS, excessive standardized testing has shifted the focus in classrooms  
6 across the Commonwealth from standards-based instruction towards test-based  
7 instruction, thus diluting student learning; and

8 WHEREAS, all Kentucky students deserve equitable opportunity and access to the  
9 rich learning environments that thrive when value is assigned to learning that cannot be  
10 quantified in a standardized test and that is not currently reflected in the state  
11 accountability system; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95  
13 affords states the flexibility to implement innovative approaches to student assessment  
14 and school accountability; and

15 WHEREAS, it is necessary and proper that Kentucky exercise this flexibility to  
16 create a state school accountability system that drives meaningful instruction, values  
17 student performance beyond standardized testing, and incentivizes rich and diverse  
18 learning opportunities;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

21 ➔Section 1. No later than March 1, 2021, the commissioner of education shall  
22 convene a strategic assessment and accountability committee that shall:

23 (1) Include but not be limited to the commissioner and at least one language arts  
24 teacher, one math teacher, one science teacher, one social studies teacher, one special  
25 education teacher, one career and technical education teacher, two school principals, two  
26 school superintendents, one school board member, and one public school parent; and

27 (2) Conduct a thorough examination of opportunities to improve Kentucky's

1 current approach to student assessment and school accountability to better meet the  
2 diverse needs of Kentucky students and to maximize the validity, reliability, and  
3 transparency of student assessment, including but not limited to opportunities to:

4 (a) Assign value within the school accountability system to equitable opportunity  
5 and access to rich and diverse learning opportunities;

6 (b) Replace the single summative assessment required by KRS 158.6453 with a  
7 series of statewide interim assessments that provide educators prompt and detailed  
8 information on individual student achievement and growth throughout the school year;

9 (c) Reduce the emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing;

10 (d) Incorporate alternative performance measures in determining the single  
11 summative score required by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-  
12 95;

13 (e) Utilize the universal designs of learning teaching approach to develop a  
14 statewide, criterion-referenced test that is accessible to all students, including students  
15 with learning disabilities;

16 (f) Review federal testing requirements to determine whether a computer  
17 adaptive criterion-referenced test can be utilized to provide a more precise measure of an  
18 individual student's academic achievement and growth with fewer questions or items;

19 (g) Restrict the number of classroom hours allocated to state- and district-required  
20 testing; and

21 (h) Improve the ability of state-required assessments to drive meaningful and  
22 individualized student instruction.

23 ➔Section 2. The commissioner shall report to the Interim Joint Committee on  
24 Education by December 1, 2021, and by December 1, 2022, regarding the findings of the  
25 committee. The final report submitted by December 1, 2022, shall include:

26 (1) A comprehensive plan to capitalize on the flexibility afforded by the Every  
27 Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-95 to adapt the Commonwealth's

1 assessment strategy to better meet the diverse needs of Kentucky students and to  
2 maximize the validity, reliability, and transparency of student assessment; and

3 (2) Specific recommendations for the General Assembly to empower the  
4 department to effectively implement the comprehensive plan.

5 ➔Section 3. Whereas the need for a valid, reliable, and transparent student  
6 assessment strategy is of utmost importance to the General Assembly, an emergency is  
7 declared to exist, and this Joint Resolution takes effect upon its passage and approval by  
8 the Governor or upon its otherwise having the force and effect of law.

9 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this  
10 Joint Resolution and notification of its adoption to the commissioner of the Kentucky  
11 Department of Education.