



Texas State Teachers Association

Sample School Board Resolution

Whereas, a strong community, state, and nation are built on a high-quality public education system that provides every child the opportunity to prepare for college, careers, and responsible citizenship; and

Whereas, our public schools thrive when educators take part in the policy-making process, as they have expertise grounded in their knowledge of what really works in their classrooms; and

Whereas, an overwhelming, bipartisan congressional majority passed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which the president signed into law December 10, 2015, that ends the misguided federal testing mandates of No Child Left Behind; and

Whereas, ESSA includes a provision that calls for committees of teachers, “paraeducators,” parents, and community members to develop policy proposals to improve their local schools, a provision that mirrors Site Based Decision Making (SBDM) committees in Texas law; and

Whereas, the Texas Legislature in 2015 passed HB1842, which allows school districts to create “Districts of Innovation” that feature exemptions from a wide range of state laws—including those that require the SBDM process and were designed to provide educators a formal, effective voice in policy and critical issues; and

Whereas, weakening Texas’ SBDM process through local exemptions would put our district at odds with the spirit of participatory decision making envisioned in ESSA;

Now therefore, be it resolved the [name of school district] Board of Trustees will, in the spirit of ESSA, work with the [local affiliate name], parents, students, and community members in a collaborative effort to use SBDM committees to develop school improvement plans that provide all students the resources and opportunities they deserve; and

Be it further resolved that [name of local school district] remains committed to the full and effective use of the SBDM process, and will not approve or implement any District of Innovation proposal which fully or partially exempts our district from SBDM processes available or required in state law; and

Be it further resolved that the [name of school district] Board of Trustees calls on the governor and Legislature to reexamine the public school accountability and finance systems to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in developing a public education policy that provides every student the opportunity to succeed.