



RESOLUTION ON LOCAL CONTROL

PROVIDING THAT THE LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTS A REVITALIZATION AND DEDICATION TO THE CONTROL OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO MAKE EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS AND SET EDUCATION PRIORITIES FOR ITS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, school boards are elected by their community to represent the community's beliefs and values and represent the public's voice in public education, providing citizen governance for what the public schools need and what the community wants; and

WHEREAS, the concept of local control is grounded in a philosophy of government premised on the belief that individuals closest to students and most knowledgeable about a school – and most invested in the welfare and success of its educators, students, and communities – are best suited to make important decisions about its operation, leadership, staffing, academics, teaching and overall improvement and accountability; and

WHEREAS, local boards of education respect the authority of the legislature and executive to establish a framework in which local schools are required to operate, establish minimum standards and performance goals which schools must meet, but believe specific decisions about operations, programs, and how to meet goals, should be left to local school boards; and

WHEREAS, school boards should be in a position to set the standard for achievement in districts and work with the Superintendent to establish a valid process for measuring student success, and when necessary, shift resources to ensure that the district's goals are achieved; and

WHEREAS, local school boards, in collaboration with their superintendent, ought to have the freedom to make decisions related to curriculum programs and the accountability system to monitor the success of the curriculum and student performance; and

WHEREAS, The Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports an assessment and accountability system, including the use of standardized tests, whose purpose is to measure student growth and achievement. The main purpose of these assessment initiatives is to identify students who need remediation and to improve instruction. Standardized tests should not be used to evaluate teachers or schools; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education believes achievement of our vision can best be met through increased local control over district operations, accountability, teacher evaluation, and student testing; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support *legislation giving greater control to locally-elected school boards* across the state of New Mexico; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association adopt a legislative platform that calls for the *elimination of the New Mexico teacher evaluation system and the school grading system* until a more appropriate system of accountability can be determined by a group of state-wide education and community stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

Adopted in open session on September 4, 2018



Mr. Ed Frank
President, Las Cruces Board of Education