

**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION REGARDING THE STATE'S PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN
LETTER GRADES TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, at the direction of the North Carolina General Assembly, the State Board of Education intends to issue "School Performance Grades" for each public school in the state beginning early next year; and

WHEREAS, both parents and taxpayers in North Carolina have a right to know how well our individual public schools are performing in their duties to educate our children; and

WHEREAS, the School Performance Grades for Elementary and Middle Schools will be based primarily on the results of the standardized End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and 5th and 8th grade Science; and

WHEREAS, the School Performance Grades for High School will also be based primarily on students' performance on standardized tests in English, Mathematics, and Biology, as well as the ACT and the school's graduation rate; and

WHEREAS, extensive empirical analyses exist demonstrating a preponderance for evidence that strongly correlates economic and demographic conditions of a school's neighborhood with student performance on North Carolina's standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that students who come from families with more resources are better prepared and equipped to learn; and

WHEREAS, students in Transylvania County Schools continue to show increases in performance and growth despite a high percentage of students and families experiencing severe economic hardship; and

WHEREAS, our district's alternative high school, Davidson River School, has demonstrated success in turning around the educational performance of hundreds of students who otherwise would have dropped out of high school, but instead are now valuable contributors to our community and economy; and

WHEREAS, for only one of many examples, the proposed state grading formula would assign the Davidson River School a low grade, thereby implying that a program that plainly is successful is labeled a "near failure," giving the school an unwarranted stigma of low achievement which stands to be a negative deterrent for future potential students from recognizing Davidson River School as a "lifeline" to their success; and

WHEREAS, other schools in the Transylvania County school system would also be assigned a low grade, despite the current and long historical success of those schools in academic performance and growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education finds the North Carolina General Assembly's mandated School Performance Grading system is an ill-conceived, ineffective and potentially damaging approach to addressing otherwise legitimate needs to provide parents and taxpayers with accurate indications of school performance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education believes North Carolina's reputation as a state with a strong education system will be unnecessarily damaged by the assignment of misleading and counter-productive "grades" to many of its public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education respectfully requests that the General Assembly delay the issuance of School Performance Grades until a new system which gives a more accurate reflection of the true performance of a school is put in place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Transylvania County Board of Education respectfully requests that the Superintendent of Transylvania County Schools work with the superintendents of other school districts in North Carolina, as well as with the North Carolina School Boards Association, to develop an alternative grading system which can be used to give parents and taxpayers a truer vision of the performance of our schools.

ADOPTED this the 24th day of November 2014.

Chairman

Secretary