

**RESOLUTION REGARDING STANDARDIZED TESTING**, by the Lower Merion School District Board of Directors

**WHEREAS**, in the Lower Merion School District we believe our top priority is the personalized education of every student, every day; and it is difficult to measure factors that we consider to be essential: the dedication of our teachers, the rigor and breadth of our academic offerings, the opportunities for co-curricular exploration, the level of parental engagement, this community's commitment to public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors of the Lower Merion School District understands the value of some limited standardized testing and will continue to present these tests to students as mandated by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Merion School District routinely provides its own student assessments that engage students and provide critical and timely feedback to teachers and administrators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Merion School District routinely engages in its own program of teacher assessment that provides critical and timely feedback to teachers and administrators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors of the Lower Merion School District is very concerned with the resources being diverted to standardized testing in classrooms and in districts across the state and the overuse of standardized tests which disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable children: minority students, low-income students, special-needs students, as well as students who do not speak English as their first language; particularly when those tests are used to determine ranking, admission, and graduation of students or to evaluate teachers and school staff and overall school performance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors continues to oppose the State mandate that requires Keystone Exams in all Pennsylvania public schools as graduation requirements;

**THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of School Directors of the Lower Merion School District asks its community to continue to define success for ourselves and our children in a way that celebrates curiosity, goal setting, academic risk taking, along with more traditional accomplishments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of School Directors of the Lower Merion School District calls upon its teachers and administration to remain focused on quality teaching of quality content, and to minimize time spent on preparation for standardized testing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of School Directors of the Lower Merion School District calls upon its legislators to strive to minimize the amount of mandated testing and the use of standardized testing for teacher and school evaluation.