



**RESOLUTION OF THE LAKELAND SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD OF  
EDUCATION TO REPEAL, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, AMEND  
LETTER GRADING OF TENNESSEE SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS,** the Lakeland School System Board of Education is the local governmental body responsible for providing a public education to the students in Lakeland, Tennessee; AND

**WHEREAS,** during the 2016 Legislative Session the Tennessee General Assembly passed Public Chapter No. 680 which provides that each school in the State of Tennessee will be assigned letter grades A through F on the State report card, with implementation to begin with the 2017-18 school year; AND

**WHEREAS,** the Lakeland School System Board of Education believes that the letter grading system will be grossly misleading to the public and will unjustly stigmatize schools, the students who attend them, teachers and communities; AND

**WHEREAS,** on October 13, 2017 it was reported in *The Commercial Appeal* that, "about 9,400 TNReady assessment tests across the state were scored incorrectly"; AND

**WHEREAS,** *The Commercial Appeal* article reported that, "The scoring issue affected 70 schools in 33 districts"; AND

**WHEREAS,** the Tennessee Education Association spokesperson was quoted in *The Commercial Appeal* article as saying, "This makes the fourth year in a row where major problems have surfaced in a system where there are a lot of high-stakes consequences for students, teachers and schools based on test scores"; AND

**WHEREAS,** the Lakeland School System Board of Education is concerned that the incorrect scoring of tests could have wide-ranging legal and social implications to school districts, communities, students, parents, school administrators and teachers; AND

**WHEREAS,** the Lakeland School System Board of Education is concerned about the lack of urgency and concern by the Tennessee Department of Education to ensure the efficacy of testing data; AND

**WHEREAS**, due to the continued failures to ensure the accuracy of test results, the Lakeland School System Board of Education believes that the implementation of the school grading system during the 2017-18 school year as required by Public Chapter No. 680 is simply irresponsible.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lakeland School System Board of Education hereby urges the Tennessee General Assembly to repeal Public Chapter 680 or in the alternative to require that said legislation not take effect until one school year has passed without major testing irregularities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lakeland School System Board of Education urges the members and officers of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and the Tennessee School Boards Association to make the repeal or amendment of Public Chapter 680 their highest respective priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, 2017.

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Kevin Floyd, Chairperson  
Lakeland School System  
Board of Education

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Ted Horrell, Superintendent  
Lakeland School System