

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE JEFFCO R-1 DISTRICT
REGARDING
SUPPORT OF QUALITY INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS AND
OPPOSITION TO ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN OR REPEAL MUTUAL CONSENT

WHEREAS, the Jeffco Board of Education believes that quality of instruction has a tremendous impact on student learning success; and

WHEREAS, extensive research found that previous K-12 evaluation systems were inadequate to distinguishing effective and ineffective educators;

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of business and community leaders and a bipartisan group of state lawmakers came together to adopt SB10-191, the Educator Effectiveness Act (“Act”), a new law that places a strong premium on educator effectiveness over seniority and that has prompted the creation of more meaningful principal and teacher evaluation systems;

WHEREAS, a diverse group of education stakeholders has played and continues to play an influential role in shaping the specific implementation of the Act;

WHEREAS, the people of Colorado clearly and overwhelmingly support the goals and key provisions of the Act;

WHEREAS, the Act replaces the practice of “forced placement” with “mutual consent” provisions that require a teacher and principal to agree before a teacher can be assigned to a school;

WHEREAS, principals will also be measured by the performance of their schools and therefore must have the flexibility to ensure a highly competent staff;

WHEREAS, the decisions about which teachers are in classrooms should be primarily driven by competency;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that the principle of mutual consent represents an indispensable part of the Act needed to help ensure that students are not trapped in the classroom of ineffective teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Education Association has publicly backed legislation that would repeal or substantially weaken “mutual consent,” and has filed a lawsuit that seeks to guarantee tenured teacher contracts as a constitutional right;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Jeffco Board of Education opposes the attempts to roll back the Educator Effectiveness Act and to eliminate mutual consent as actions made for the needs of

students we have been elected to serve, especially those students who bring the greatest learning challenges to the classroom;

That the Board of Education stands in solidarity with the Denver Public Schools and the Colorado State Board of Education in their defense against the Colorado Education Association's lawsuit; and

That the Board of Education urges the Colorado General Assembly and judiciary to reject any and all efforts that would weaken the important principle of mutual consent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Colorado State Board of Education and posted on the Jeffco Board of Education website.


APPROVED this 6th day of March, 2014, by the Jeffco Board of Education.

SIGNED:



Ken Witt
President
Board of Education

ATTEST:



John J. Newkirk
Secretary
Board of Education