

## **UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## RESOLUTION NO. 2013-04

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE PROPER ROLE OF TESTING AND ASSESSMENT IN THE UTAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the Utah State Board of Education has the constitutional obligation of general control and supervision of public education in the state of Utah; and

WHEREAS, the Utah State Board of Education has the moral obligation to promote educational "best practices" in Utah schools; and

WHEREAS, assessment of student learning is an integral part of the effective instruction cycle; and

WHEREAS, formal, informal, standardized and non-standardized assessments all play different roles in the assessment of student knowledge and student learning; and

WHEREAS, Utah state law requires that certain assessments be used in a high stakes fashion, applying assessment scores in a manner outside of what these assessments were originally designed to measure; and

WHEREAS, leading professional organizations, including the American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education, have taken the position that assessments may be used for purposes for which they were not originally designed, but *only* if a new test use is supported with data indicating that the new test use is appropriate and valid; and

WHEREAS, student time is typically best used in instruction, and the purpose of assessment is to improve student learning by appropriately monitoring and adjusting instruction; and

WHEREAS, computer adaptive tests have been field tested in Utah schools and use testing time more effectively to receive more accurate information about student knowledge and abilities; reduce cheating by students and adults; reduce the time needed to score exams; increase precision of scores; increase the timeliness of feedback to teachers, parents, and other decision makers; and improve the quality of data about Utah public school students' learning; and

WHEREAS, the Utah State Board of Education recognizes parents' choice in their children's participation in statewide testing, with the understanding that

participation impacts program accountability and proper measurement of student achievement, and believes that participation in assessments should reflect the entire population of the school for the data to be useful to government officials, taxpayers, parents, teachers, and school district personnel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah State Board of Education affirms its support of computer adaptive assessment when appropriately used as a component of high quality instruction; and

BE IT further RESOLVED, that the Utah State Board of Education calls upon the members of the Utah Legislature to work collaboratively with the State Board to review, revisit and revise such laws as necessary to assure the appropriate use of testing and assessment, while assuring accountability for student achievement in Utah's public schools.

PASSED and APPROVED this 7th day of June, 2013.

**Utah State Board of Education** 

Olso V. Roberto

Debra G. Roberts, Chair

ATTEST:

Lorraine Austin Board Secretary