

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 HOUSE  
4 RESOLUTION 1001

By: Jackson

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution to reexamine the public school  
8 accountability system; and directing distribution.

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11 WHEREAS, the overall reliance on standardized, high stakes  
12 testing as the only assessment of learning that really matters in  
13 the state and federal accountability systems is strangling our  
14 public schools and undermining any chance that educators have to  
15 transform a traditional system of schooling into a broad range of  
16 learning experiences that better prepares our students to live  
17 successfully and be competitive on a global stage; and

18 WHEREAS, we recognize and have a major concern about the  
19 overemphasis on high stakes testing that has become a perversion of  
20 its origin alignment; and

21 WHEREAS, we believe that the children of the State of Oklahoma  
22 should not be political pawns but rather the focus of our efforts to  
23 redefine education in our state; and

1       WHEREAS, we believe our state's future prosperity relies on a  
2 high-quality education system that prepares students for college and  
3 careers, and without such a system the State of Oklahoma's economic  
4 competitiveness and ability to attract new business will falter; and

5       WHEREAS, the real work of designing more engaging student  
6 learning experiences requires changes in the culture and structure  
7 of the systems in which teachers and students work; and

8       WHEREAS, what occurs in our classrooms every day should be  
9 student-centered and result in students learning at a deep and  
10 meaningful level, as opposed to the superficial level of learning  
11 that results from the current overemphasis on that which can be  
12 easily tested by standardized tests; and

13       WHEREAS, our vision is for all students to be engaged in more  
14 meaningful learning activities that cultivate their unique  
15 individual talents, to provide for student choice in work that is  
16 designed to respect how they learn best, and to embrace the concept  
17 that students can be both consumers and creators of knowledge; and

18       WHEREAS, only by developing new capacities and conditions in  
19 districts and schools, and the communities in which they are  
20 embedded, will we ensure that all learning spaces foster and  
21 celebrate innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration,  
22 communication and critical thinking; and

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1       WHEREAS, these are the very skills that business leaders desire  
2 in a rising workforce and the very attitudes that are essential to  
3 the survival of our democracy; and

4       WHEREAS, imposing relentless test preparation and boring  
5 memorization of facts to enhance test performance is doing little  
6 more than stealing the love of learning from our students and  
7 assuring that we fall short of our goals; and

8       WHEREAS, the system of the past will neither prepare our  
9 students to lead in the future nor will the standardized tests that  
10 so dominate their instructional time and block our ability to make  
11 progress toward a world-class education system of student-centered  
12 schools and future-ready students.

13       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
14 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

15       THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives shall reexamine the  
16 public school accountability system in the State of Oklahoma.

17       THAT an official copy of this resolution be distributed to State  
18 Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi.

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20       54-1-5895       AM       01/04/13

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