



SPONSOR: Rep. Lofink & Sen. Sokola

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
144th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

CREATING AN ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM AND
ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, Delaware has the opportunity to collaborate with other states and enhance the current assessment
2 system focusing on student learning and achievement, timely results, effective use of resources, and measurement of
3 improvement for students, schools, districts and the State; and

4 WHEREAS, parents are critical partners in student success and need clear, easily understood information about
5 their child's current achievement, areas for improvement, and rate of academic growth compared to the State and national
6 averages; and

7 WHEREAS, Delaware has an assessment system that has been approved through the U. S. Department of
8 Education's Peer Review as effectively meeting the requirement of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) to measure students'
9 learning; and

10 WHEREAS, Delaware wants to expand beyond the NCLB requirements to help schools and districts in using
11 assessments to development instructional strategies and supports for individual students; and

12 WHEREAS, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as No Child Left Behind
13 (NCLB) is currently going through the process of reauthorization and is scheduled to be reauthorized this fall for the
14 following five (5) years; and

15 WHEREAS, Delaware is one (1) of only five (5) states approved by the U. S. Department of Education to
16 participate in an accountability system pilot based on a growth model and the results of the first year of that pilot will be
17 available by September, 2007; and

18 WHEREAS, the Vision 2015 collaboration is conducting a study of cost effectiveness for public education with a
19 report due December 1, 2007; and

20 WHEREAS, as requested by the Controller General and Budget Director, the Department of Education has worked
21 with Delaware's current testing system vendor to develop an extension of the current contract to December 31, 2010; and

22 WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Education is providing leadership in the establishment of a national
23 effort through the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National Governors' Association and other major education
24 partners to construct voluntary national standards and collaborative, cross-statement assessment systems; and

25 WHEREAS, Delaware is involved with the New England Compact (Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island)
26 to learn from their interstate collaborative of standards and assessments; and

27 WHEREAS, the Department of Education is working with Achieve, Inc. and the Council of Chief State School
28 Officers to participate in an international benchmarking study of the State's content standards; and

29 WHEREAS, the General Assembly directed the Department of Education to craft a comprehensive, statewide
30 recommended curriculum and to hold districts accountable for alignment to this curriculum; and

31 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has developed such a statewide recommended curriculum with grade
32 level expectations, guidance on classroom-based assessments and model units of instruction with the final rollout to be
33 completed by September, 2007; and

34 WHEREAS, the General Assembly established an Assessment Task Force through HJR 4 with Senate Amendment
35 2 and that Assessment Task Force worked diligently to study, deliberate and make recommendations concerning
36 Delaware's Student Testing program; and

37 WHEREAS, in May, 2006, the Assessment Task Force submitted a report to the General Assembly for their
38 consideration.

39 NOW, THEREFORE:

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 144th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
41 Senate concurring therein, that a Task Force be created for the purposes of developing and approving the Request(s) for
42 Proposals for the next Delaware student assessment system for reading, mathematics, writing, science and social studies,
43 such task Force consisting of the following members:

44 (1) Chairpersons of the Senate and House Education Committees, who shall act as Co-chairs of the Task
45 Force;

46 (2) One (1) member appointed by the Delaware Senate president Pro Tempore;

47 (3) One (1) member appointed by the Delaware Speaker of the House;

48 (4) Secretary of Education or designee;

49 (5) Associate Secretary of Assessment and Accountability or designee;

50 (6) One (1) member appointed by the State Board of Education;

- 51 (7) Two (2) representatives of the Delaware State Education Association, one (1) of whom must be a current
52 classroom teacher;
- 53 (8) Three (3) Superintendents, one (1) from each county, appointed by the Delaware Chief School Officers
54 Association;
- 55 (9) Three (3) parents, one (1) from each county, appointed by the Education Committee of the House and
56 Senate;
- 57 (10) One (1) charter school leader, appointed by the Delaware Charter School Network;
- 58 (11) One (1) school board member appointed by the Delaware School Boards Association's Board of
59 Directors;
- 60 (12) Two (2) building level administrators appointed b the Delaware Association of School Administrators;
- 61 (13) One (1) representative of Vision 2015 appointed by their Chair;
- 62 (14) One (1) representative of the Delaware P-20 Council appointed by their Chair;
- 63 (15) One (1) representative of Delaware colleges and universities, appointed by the Delaware Higher
64 Education Commission; and
- 65 (16) The Budget Director of the State of Delaware.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall use the May, 2006 Assessment Task Force report as the
67 starting recommendations in working to ensure that the statewide pupil assessment system:

- 68 (1) is cost effective and, to the full extent possible, is developed in common or in collaboration with other
69 states;
- 70 (2) provides more useful information to teachers, students, and parents regarding each student's current
71 achievement and instructional needs;
- 72 (3) returns scores as expeditiously as possible;
- 73 (4) consists of end-of-year assessments in elementary grades and five end-of-course assessments in high
74 school, one (1) of which must be a writing assessment;
- 75 (5) transitions Delaware as soon as possible to online testing in order to ensure faster scoring and reduced
76 printing costs; and
- 77 (6) is ready for use as a comprehensive new assessment system, no later than the end of the 2010-2011 school
78 year.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force shall submit the Request(s) for Proposals for the next state
80 assessment system to the President pro Tempore, Speaker of the House and Governor by May 15, 2008.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that financial and administrative support for the Task Force shall be provided by
82 the General Assembly.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a simple majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum
84 for the transaction of all Task Force business and all decisions of the task Force shall be approved by the affirmative vote of
85 a simple majority of its members.

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution requires a transition to a statewide student assessment system that is economical, focused, requires less testing time, measures each child's academic growth, and returns faster and more useful results to teachers, parents and students. It creates a Task Force of educators, parents, legislators and other stakeholders to oversee the development of the Request(s) for Proposals and the vendor selection.