

**RESOLUTION BY THE SPRING BRANCH ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CONCERNING TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
RECOMMENDED UNIFORM GPA CALCULATION**

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3851, subsequently codified as Section 28.0252(b) of the Texas Education Code; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3851 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to create a standard method of determining high school student grade point averages (GPA) for admission to a Texas public university; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3851 further requires that the standard method for computing a student's high school grade point average must (1) be based on a four-point scale, and (2) assign additional weight for each honors course, advanced placement course, international baccalaureate course, or dual credit course completed by the student as the board considers appropriate, taking into consideration the academic rigor of each course completed by the student; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3851 further requires that the standard method for computing a student's high school grade point average applies to computing the grade point average of a student applying as a first-time freshman for admission to a general academic teaching institution beginning with admissions for the 2009 fall semester; and

WHEREAS, THECB asked the Attorney General for an opinion to clarify whether school districts were required to use the standard method of calculation and whether or not the Coordinating Board had the latitude to provide a transition period for implementation of the standard method of calculation; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General issued an opinion on August 26, 2008, which in summary states that (1) the standard GPA calculation must be used by the school districts for purposes of public university admissions, and (2) House Bill 3851 is not to be applied retroactively to students; and

WHEREAS, THECB has proposed rules to implement House Bill 3851; and

WHEREAS, the rules proposed by THECB to calculate the high school grade point average provide in pertinent part as follows:

- (1) A four-point scale shall be used in computing the Uniform Grade-Point Average except that Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and academic Dual Credit courses that are part of Chapters 110 - 114 of this title, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, shall be weighted equally with an additional weighting of 1.0 points in the calculation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average;

- (2) All academic courses included in Chapters 110 - 114 of this title, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, shall be used in calculating the Uniform Grade-Point Average regardless of when the course was taken; and
- (3) Grades earned in local credit courses shall not be included in the computation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average; and

WHEREAS, the process used to create the proposed rules did not involve broad participation from K-12 stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees believes there are substantial modifications that should be made to the proposed rules prior to the implementation of the standard method for calculating a student's high school grade point average.


THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees requests that THECB withdraw the current proposed rule, and create a formal committee with broad representation of K-12 stakeholders to determine appropriate rules for the implementation of House Bill 3851.

The Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees further requests the following:

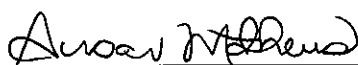
- (1) Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses should be given additional weight in the calculation of the student's grade point average;
- (2) Career & Technology courses should be included in the student's grade point average;
- (3) THECB should permit school districts to exercise local control to determine the minimum passing grade and should not assign all grades in the 95th to 100th percentile to be equivalent to an "A" or a 4.0 (or a 5.0 if earned in an Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Dual Credit course);
- (4) All courses included in the Recommended High School curriculum should be included in the grade point average calculation rather than only those "academic courses included Chapters 110-114" of the Texas Administrative Code;
- (5) Consistent with the Attorney General's opinion, the implementation date should be later than the 2009-10 school year in order to avoid retroactive application to students currently in grades 6, 7 and 8 who have made course selection decisions based on the current grade point average calculation methodology;

- (6) Fine arts courses are considered "academic" courses under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, by the College Board and by the State Board of Education; and, therefore, should be included in the GPA; and
- (7) The process for approving the rules should be slowed down so that all possible ramifications and consequences are considered.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of September 2008.



President, Board of Trustees
Spring Branch Independent School District

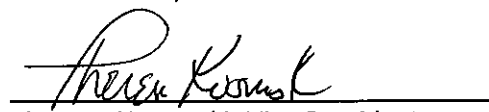
ATTEST:


Secretary, Board of Trustees
Spring Branch Independent School District

We, the members of the Board of Trustees of Spring Branch Independent School District join in signing this Resolution.



Susan Kellner, President



Theresa Kosmoski, Vice President



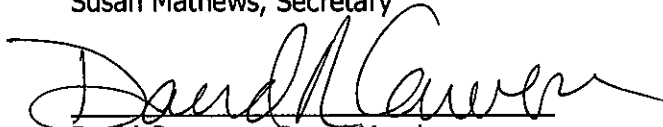
Susan Mathews, Secretary



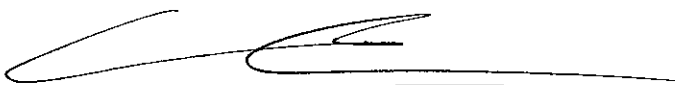
Mary Grace Landrum, Board Member



Wayne Schaper, Sr., Board Member



David Converse, Board Member



Mike Falick, Board Member