

## **EEA Representative Council Testing Resolution – March 9, 2015**

Whereas our goal is to promote education that ensures every student meets or exceeds academic standards and is fully prepared for college, career and participation as an active community member, regardless of race, class or zip code;

Whereas high-stakes standardized tests are required by federal, state, and local educational jurisdictions;

Whereas the law allows for multiple alternatives to Smarter Balanced tests for graduation purposes;

Whereas students and their parents/guardians have the right to define their own “religious beliefs;”

Whereas a growing national movement of families are choosing to exercise their right to opt out;

Whereas the 4J and Bethel School Boards have indicated that the Smarter Balanced tests will be administered this spring;

We call upon the Boards to ensure full disclosure regarding families’ rights to understand their right to opt out of the Smarter Balanced tests without any individual retribution or school punishment. Information about the process should be easily accessible to all. Clear and easy to follow links must be prominently displayed on the district’s home page, as well as providing paper copies in the individual school buildings. All materials should be made available in English and in Spanish.

We further call on the district to provide clear, consistent, and reasonable procedures for the receipt of opt out applications.

We further call upon the Board to be transparent, neutral in its language, and forthcoming by directing all staff to provide families with impartial information on their legal right to opt out of the tests.

