

RESOLUTION NO. 766

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AMENDING LETTER GRADING OF
TENNESSEE SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the City of Clinton is the local funding body responsible for providing a public education to the students and families in Clinton, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee, by March 2016 legislative approval and signature of Governor Bill Haslam of House Bill 155 and Senate Bill 300, has directed the Tennessee Department of Education to develop a grading system for assigning letter grades A through F on the state report cards for Tennessee schools, implementation of which will begin with the 2017-18 school year; and

WHEREAS, after operating under federally-mandated No Child Left Behind guidelines, Tennessee received a waiver of NCLB standards and adopted Race to the Top guidelines, which were subsequently replaced by the new federally-mandated Every Student Succeeds Act in an effort to close achievement gaps for economically-disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, the letter grading system will be grossly misleading to the public and will oversimplify the link between poverty and low test scores, thus stigmatizing low-performing schools that receive Ds and Fs, as well as the students who attend them; and

WHEREAS, numerous parents have voiced concern about the single letter grading for each school as we have community schools just across town from each other and a letter grade would create a level of competition that will cause divisions in the community rather than bringing unity; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the House voted to approve HB 449 to amend previous legislation to assign an overall performance label which aligns to the district determination rather than a single letter grade; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED by the City Council of Clinton, Tennessee that the Tennessee General Assembly Senate Education Committee is urged to immediately amend legislation mandating the assignment of a single letter grade to Tennessee schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members and officers of the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents and the Tennessee Schools Boards Association are hereby encouraged to actively lobby for the amendment of said legislation.

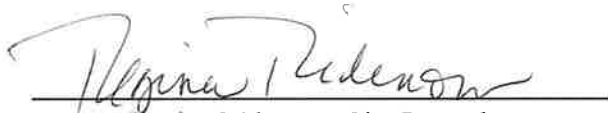
Adopted this 26th day of February, 2018.

APPROVED:



Mayor Scott Burton

ATTEST:



Regina Ridenour, City Recorder