RESOLUTION 2021-03

Concerning accessible standardized scholastic achievement tests for blind children and youth

WHEREAS, competency in reading and writing in braille is the only path to literacy for blind children and youth; and

WHEREAS, standardized scholastic achievement testing is widely administered in schools throughout the state by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) under contract with the Achievement and Assessment Institute at University of Kansas (AAI); and

WHEREAS, any failure to make standardized scholastic achievement tests accessible to blind students results in a test of impairment instead of scholastic achievement; and

WHEREAS, until very recently AAI has failed to produce and distribute braille versions of their test instruments but are now doing so; and

WHEREAS, leaders of the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) have become aware of problems with the braille edition of the testing instruments including poor quality braille copy, charts and graphs that are not the same as those in the regular print editions as well as other identified deficiencies, : now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Kansas in convention assembled in the city of Overland Park, Kansas, that we call upon KSDE and AAI to undertake positive steps to correct all of the above cited deficiencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we invite and encourage KSDE and AAI to work in consultation with this organization to assure production of high quality braille versions of all standardized achievement test instruments.