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NEWS RELEASE

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## **Transforming the school accountability conversation with a revamped organization and a new learning portal**

San Antonio, TX—Test Sense, a national leader in the drive for moving beyond test-based educational accountability, is now officially bravEd. Test Sense has played an important role both in questioning what states and the Federal government call school accountability, but also in arguing what should replace it. bravEd will continue that work but in a more virtual and scalable form.

“We’re small but mighty,” explained founder John Tanner, “and to stay that way we need to not grow into some big consulting firm that needs to constantly chase business. I want us focused on the ideas and making sure as many schools and districts as possible can engage them and benefit from them. That doesn’t happen with a more traditional consulting model.

Test Sense was founded by Tanner in 2009 after working for years in state government, test publishing, and national organizations. “I was generally a square peg in a round hole,” he said. “I was always doing work related to testing and accountability but never managed to move the needle past testing. Test Sense was my chance to do that.”

Accompanying the name change and in line with the new focus is the launch of a new learning portal called the bravEd Way. “We’ve known for some time that we needed new tools and mechanisms to grow this work,” said Tanner. “A learning portal has long been the next logical step.”

The portal is currently undergoing a soft launch with the first few modules but will shortly open up nationally. bravEd has partnered with the Schlechty Center of Louisville, KY that will provide content around the concept of a learning organization as the direction accountability should face. “We’re thrilled at the partnership,” said Dr. Steve McCammon, president of Schlechty Center. “I’ve long said that true accountability needs Phil Schlechty’s notion of a learning organization, and to become a learning organization requires true accountability.”

bravEd and the bravEd Way will both continue to offer support to the two largest consortia of districts in the country currently engaged in this work. In Texas the Texas Public Accountability Consortium (TPAC), is run by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), and in Georgia, True Accountability for Georgia Schools (TAGS) has been supported by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. “We’re really encouraged by the opportunity the portal gives us to grow the movement here in Georgia and beyond,” said Craig Harper, executive director at PAGE.

Prior to the pandemic five additional states were the process of forming consortia to follow in the footsteps of TPAC and TAGS. bravEd and the bravEd Way will support those efforts in the coming months as they resume their work.

When asked why this work is relevant and important, Tanner didn't hesitate. "Accountability in effective organizations is any system that allows the organization to develop and maintain trust with its most important stakeholders." Stakeholders, he says, "are those people who define what the organization does and without whom the organization would not exist, which in the case of schools is the students, their parents, and their communities. What currently passes for educational accountability has nothing to do with this trust, but something else. Now that we know that we're, all of us, obligated to put something better in place."

### **About bravEd**

bravEd (formerly Test Sense) is committed to the idea that under a true educational accountability (which is a far cry from what we currently have) schools will be able to generate the level of trust needed to shape themselves for whatever lies ahead, and in so doing be ready for every student that walks through the door. Real accountability is all about generating and maintaining that trust, and schools and our students need that now more than ever.

bravEd is a small but mighty organization that bases its work on the writings and efforts of its founder, John Tanner. Tanner's book, *The Pitfalls of Reform*, is a good example of this thinking as it goes well beyond most treatises on educational accountability that get hung up on the idea of a better test or a more sophisticated use of accountability formulae and goes to the heart of how real accountability works, why that has long been ignored in schools, and what we should do about it.

Those interested in learning more are strongly encouraged to visit [bravEd.com](http://bravEd.com) to learn more about the organization, and [bravedway.com](http://bravedway.com) to access content and information relative to the true accountability movement, what it means, and why it is more necessary than ever.

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