

RESOLUTION No. 24-01-014

**Sponsored by Commissioners Ron French, Robbie Bennett, Dyran Bledsoe, Earl McMahan,
Brad Bowers, and Dawn Reagan**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION BY THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE BLOUNT
COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OPPOSING ANY ACTION OR INITIATIVES THAT DIVERT PUBLIC
DOLLARS AWAY FROM K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR PRIVATE USE**

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, states that "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools."; and

WHEREAS, public schools that provide a free and appropriate education for all, including students with disabilities, require all available state funding in order to continue to improve without necessitating an increased burden on local taxpayers or reducing services for students; and

WHEREAS, vouchers often divert public funds from the many who attend public schools to supplement those families who have already chosen a different option for the education of their children; and

WHEREAS, proponents have spent millions to convince the public and lawmakers to their efficacy, yet, more than five decades after introduction, vouchers still remain unproven; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Board of Commissioners enthusiastically supports the mission, vision, beliefs, and goals of the Blount County Board of Education and believes public funds should be directed to public schools for the betterment of the student population and community overall; and

WHEREAS, the Blount County Board of Education is fully transparent to parents and the public as the district adheres to open record requests, state mandated academic and accountability measures, and financial standards; and

WHEREAS, Blount County Schools educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

WHEREAS, all educational institutions receiving public funds should have the same accountability and performance reporting expectations so that parents and the public may better understand the use and efficacy of those public funds; and

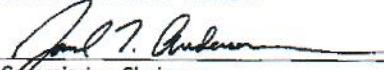
WHEREAS, school choice already exists via district transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Blount County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session on the 18th day of January 2024, and in conjunction with the Blount County Board of Education assembled in regular session on February 1, 2024, do hereby urge the Tennessee General Assembly to reject any action or initiatives that would divert public dollars away from K-12 public schools for private use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be mailed by the County Clerk to the members of the Tennessee General Assembly representing the citizens of Blount County, Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION TAKE EFFECT FROM AND AFTER PASSAGE, THE PUBLIC WELFARE REQUIRING IT.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION




Commission Chairman



County Mayor

- Approved
 Vetoed

ATTEST




County Clerk

January 24, 2024

Date


IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BLOUNT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ASSEMBLED ON
February 1, 2024.

CERTIFICATION OF ACTION



Erica Moore, Board of Education Chair

ATTEST



David C. Murrell, Director of Schools