



# CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Achieving Excellence Together*

Director of Schools - Cathy Beck, Ed.D

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## RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOVERNOR LEE'S EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

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

WHEREAS, the fulfillment of this constitutional guarantee is heavily reliant upon adequate state funding, which is vital for equipping schools with the necessary resources to serve the various needs of Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, the Cheatham County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students, regardless of background, needs, or ability, receive the best possible educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Cheatham County School System is an educational community that serves a student population of 5,480 students, with 38% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Cheatham County School System offers an array of specialized programs including special education services, career and technical education training aligned with local workforce needs, dual enrollment opportunities that are partnered with surrounding colleges, AP course available for all students, a Fine Arts Magnet School, a certified STEM school, a Lighthouse status Leader in Me school, a robust music program including both choir and band, leadership opportunities for students, Unified District designation, Cognia Accredited district, TN AllCorp tutoring, and many extracurricular activities and clubs chosen by students which are invaluable for meeting both individual student needs and the Tennessee Constitution's requirement of a free and public education; and

WHEREAS, the Cheatham County School System is a cornerstone of the local community, not only providing education services to all students regardless of background, need, or ability, but also employing 868 staff members;

WHEREAS, the Cheatham County School System is committed to maintaining local control over its schools, ensuring that they are reflective of the community's needs and values; and


WHEREAS, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) threaten the district's ability to maintain the quality of its educational offerings as ESAs would divert state funds to private actors, disrupt local control of education, and potentially provide control over education to out of State special interest groups.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cheatham County Board of Education hereby expresses its opposition to the Governor's "Education Freedom Act" as well as any other voucher or Education Savings Account legislation due to the detrimental impacts these programs will have on our students, schools, and community, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cheatham County Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to consider the effects that Education Savings Accounts will have on local school districts and to instead seek out ways to support and strengthen public schools throughout the state.

**THIS RESOLUTION** is adopted as of this 7th day of December, 2023.

**CHEATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

  
NAME, Chairman

  
NAME, Vice Chairman

  
NAME

  
NAME

  
NAME

  
NAME