

# Fayetteville City Schools

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## RESOLUTION 2024-01

*A resolution urging the General Assembly to oppose the "Education Freedom Act"  
and other expansions of Education Savings Accounts*

WHEREAS Governor Lee has proposed an "Education Freedom Act" to the General Assembly, and,

WHEREAS we believe very strongly that passage of the "Education Freedom Act" will do significant harm to public education in Tennessee, and,

WHEREAS Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) have an abysmal record, including hampering student achievement, inviting fraud and waste with tax dollars, and costing states exponentially more money to operate than originally planned, and,

WHEREAS nationwide research has repeatedly shown that students participating in ESA and similar voucher programs test worse than their similarly situated peers who remained in public school systems, and,

WHEREAS expanded ESA programs – like Governor Lee has proposed – have led to fraud that is difficult to prevent when private citizens are handed debit cards loaded with taxpayer dollars, and,

WHEREAS in anticipation of such fraud, Arizona, for example, has spent significant additional public funds to audit their ESA program multiple times annually, and,

WHEREAS in virtually every case where ESA eligibility was expanded, states have spent far more on the programs than what was initially announced to the public,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fayetteville City Schools Board of Education urges the General Assembly to research and learn from the mistakes of other states and avoid the unnecessary waste of tax dollars in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we appeal to the General Assembly, especially to Tennessee legislators who represent Fayetteville and Lincoln County, to oppose any legislation that seeks to establish a new statewide ESA program or expand the existing ESA pilot program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we appeal to the General Assembly to support public education by fortifying our public school systems, ensuring access to quality education for all children, and safeguarding the responsible use of taxpayer money.

**ADOPTED THIS 8TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.**

MARK A. CLARK  
Chairman

THOMAS H. HOLLAND, JR.  
Vice Chairman