

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO  
GOVERNOR’S EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT  
(LEGISLATION ALLOCATING PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS)**

**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 Franklin Special School District 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 Franklin Special School District is an educational community that serves a student population of 3,137 students, with 40% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin Special School District offers a diverse range of invaluable opportunities and specialized programs tailored to meet the individual needs of our students. These offerings encompass a comprehensive array, including, but not limited to, Special Education services, English as a Second Language (ESL) services, Response to Intervention (RTI) services, social-emotional learning support, after-school tutoring and enrichment opportunities, fine arts courses and clubs, athletic teams and Career and Technical Education (CTE) training aligned with local workforce needs. These programs not only address the specific needs of each student but also fulfill the mandate outlined in the Tennessee Constitution, ensuring a free and public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin Special School District is a cornerstone of the local community, not only providing education services to all students regardless of background, need, or ability, but also employing 742 staff members;

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin Special School District is committed to maintaining local control over its schools, ensuring that they are reflective of the community’s needs and values; and

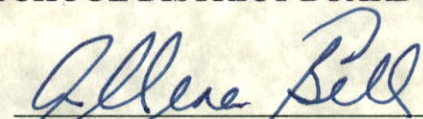
**WHEREAS**, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) threaten the district's ability to maintain the quality of its educational offerings as ESAs would divert state funds to private actors and disrupt local control of education.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Franklin Special School District 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

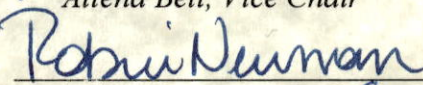
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Franklin Special School District Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to consider the effects that Education Savings Accounts will have on local school districts and to instead seek out ways to support and strengthen public schools throughout the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

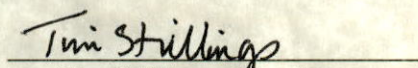
**THIS RESOLUTION IS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED AS OF THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2024 BY FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION, FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE**

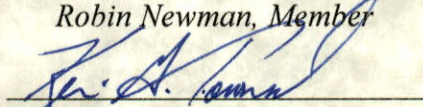
  
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Robert Blair, Chairman

  
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Allena Bell, Vice Chair

  
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Alicia Barker, Member

  
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Robin Newman, Member

  
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Tim Stillings, Member

  
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Kevin Townsel, Member

