

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING GOVERNOR LEE'S EDUCATION FREEDOM
SCHOLARSHIP 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 Franklin 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 think critically and to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County School District is an educational community that serves a student population of 4724 students, with 32% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County School District offers an array of specialized programs, including special education services (15% of our students are students with disabilities), career and technical education training aligned with local workforce needs, grow your own initiatives, dual enrollment for college and trade schools, AP (Advanced Placement) courses, a band program, trauma-informed schools, the Campora Resource Center, a collaborative partnership with the Prevention Coalition, ESP (Extended School Program), and mental health resources (social workers, counselors, and advocates), which are invaluable for meeting both individual student needs and the Tennessee Constitution's requirement of a free and public education; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin County 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 771 staff members;

WHEREAS, the Franklin County 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 County Board of Education hereby expresses its opposition to the Governor's Education Freedom Scholarship 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 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 ways to support and strengthen public schools throughout the state.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 11th day of December, 2023.
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

NAME, Board Chair

Clevo Walker
Sam Wilson

NAME, Vice Chair

NAME

Linda M Jones

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Caycee Roberts

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Shel A Mahony

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Parra Lichy

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