

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN ALCOA CITY SCHOOLS, MARYVILLE CITY SCHOOLS, ALCOA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND MARYVILLE CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING THE EDUCATION FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP ACT

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, requires 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 of their efficacy, yet, more than five decades after introduction, vouchers still remain unproven; and

WHEREAS, the Alcoa City Commission and Maryville City Council enthusiastically supports the mission, vision, beliefs, and goals of the Alcoa City Schools and Maryville City Schools and believes public funds should be directed to public schools for the betterment of the student population and community overall; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa City Schools and Maryville City Schools educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

WHEREAS, Alcoa City Schools and Maryville City Schools are fully transparent to parents and the public as the districts adhere to open record requests and state-mandated academic and financial standards; 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, that the Alcoa City School Board, Maryville City School Board, Alcoa Board of Commissioners, and Maryville City Council are united in strongly urging the Tennessee General Assembly to reject the Education Freedom Scholarship Act or similar voucher initiatives that would divert public dollars away from public schools.

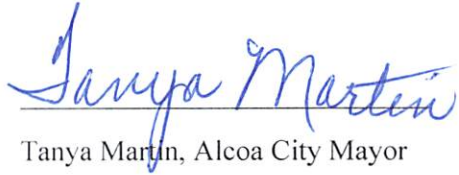
RESOLVED, DULY ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE upon passage, the public welfare requiring same.

Adopted by Alcoa City Schools this 23rd day of January 2024

Adopted by Alcoa City Commission this 9th day of January 2024.

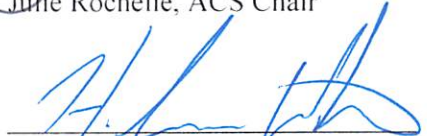
Adopted by Maryville City Schools this 22nd day of January 2024.

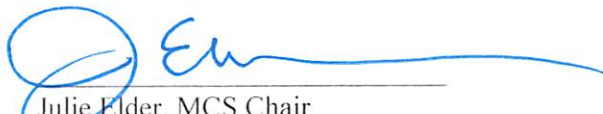
Adopted by Maryville City Council this 2nd day of January 2024.


Tanya Martin, Alcoa City Mayor


Julie Rochelle, ACS Chair

Alcoa City School Board
chair


Andy White, Maryville City Mayor


Julie Elder, MCS Chair