

**RESOLUTION OF THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
IN OPPOSITION TO THE EDUCATION FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP ACT
AND EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

WHEREAS, the Education Freedom Scholarship Act has been proposed requesting the State of Tennessee adopt a voucher program by which public school funds are diverted to private schools and private interests; and

WHEREAS, many lobbyists and private organizations seeking voucher programs are out of state companies and organizations spending significant sums of money to advance their agenda through vouchers and similar programs; and

WHEREAS, the public education system of Tennessee is best managed by Tennesseans for which it serves and not by out of state companies and organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County school system has been recognized as an Exemplary school system in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County School System is the fourth largest school system in the State of Tennessee which educates in excess of 49,000 students; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Board of Education recognizes that voucher programs and education savings accounts hurt public education; and

WHEREAS, voucher programs hurt public education by taking dollars that would otherwise go into the public school system and giving those dollars to private interests; and

WHEREAS, every public school system in Tennessee has fixed costs to maintain a free public school system and any funds taken from the public school system for private vouchers are not likely to be replaced by the State; and

WHEREAS, school vouchers likely will lead to tax increases as local governments would need to increase property taxes to pay for the lost revenue from the State going to private voucher programs; and

WHEREAS, a loss of tax dollars will reduce funding available for academic programs and teaching staff at public schools; and

WHEREAS, school vouchers send public dollars to private schools creating a two-tier school system not open to all students; and

WHEREAS, studies of voucher programs in Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio have shown that students enrolled in private schools through vouchers perform academically worse than they performed in public schools and the New York Times has reported such problems; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that students attending private school through vouchers in Indiana and Ohio score lower on reading and math tests compared to similar students in public schools; and

WHEREAS, voucher programs do not fix lower performing schools, but undermine such schools' ability to improve and perform better; and

WHEREAS, "Education Savings Accounts" are the equivalent of vouchers and divert funds from the public school system to private schools and private benefit; and

WHEREAS, funds diverted to Education Savings Accounts will result in higher taxes in order to fund Tennessee's public school system;

WHEREAS, diverting public funds through vouchers or Education Savings Accounts results in no accountability over those funds to ensure that education dollars are actually spent on academically successful programs and schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Rutherford County Board of Education:

The Rutherford County Board of Education opposes the Education Freedom Scholarship Act, school vouchers, and Education Savings Accounts in Tennessee as school vouchers and Education Savings Accounts hurt the free public education system, divert limited State education dollars to private interests, have been shown to hurt the academic progress of students, and will result in a need for an increase in taxes to replace the funds going to private individuals and entities through voucher and education savings accounts.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Rutherford County Board of Education
this the 11 day of January, 2024.

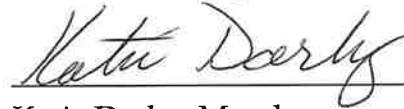
**RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION**



Shelia Bratton, Chairman

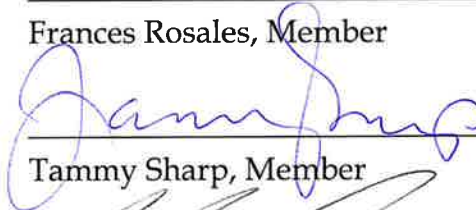


Claire Maxwell, Vice-Chairman

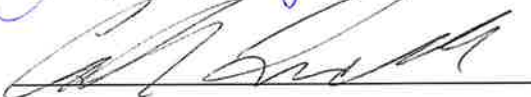


Katie Darby, Member

Frances Rosales, Member



Tammy Sharp, Member



Caleb Tidwell, Member



Coy Young, Member

ATTESTED TO:



Dawn Williams, Secretary