

Resolution Opposing Governor Lee's Education Freedom Act

Tullahoma City School District

January 2, 2024

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 for 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 Tullahoma City Schools 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 postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Tullahoma City Schools is an educational community that serves a student population of 3,630 students, with 51% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Tullahoma City Schools offers a diverse range of invaluable opportunities and specialized programs tailored to meet 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, afterschool tutoring and enrichment opportunities, fine arts courses and clubs, athletic teams, Tullahoma Virtual Academy, JROTC, and a variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses designed to align with local workforce needs. These programs not only cater to the specific requirements for each student but also fulfill the mandate outlined in the Tennessee Constitution, ensuring a free and public education for all; and

WHEREAS, Tullahoma City Schools is a cornerstone of the local community, not only providing education services to all students regardless of background, need or ability, but also employing 560 staff members; and


WHEREAS, Tullahoma City Schools is committed to maintaining local control over its schools, ensuring that they are reflective of the community's needs and values; and

WHEREAS, Educational 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.

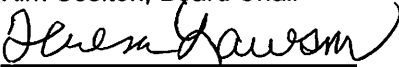
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tullahoma City Schools Board of Education hereby expresses its opposition to the Governor's "Education Freedom Act" as well as any other voucher or Education Savings Account legislation due to the detrimental impacts these programs will have on our students, schools, and community, and

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

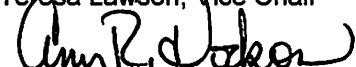
THIS RESOLUTION is adopted as of this 2nd day of January, 2024, by the Tullahoma City Schools Board of Education.



Kim Uselton, Board Chair




Teresa Lawson, Vice Chair



Amy Dabson, TLN Representative



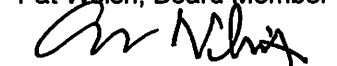
Beth Harrison, Board Member



Gigi Robison, Board Member



Pat Welsh, Board Member



Andy Whitt, Board Member