

Resolution Opposing Governor Lee's Education Freedom Scholarship Act

Trenton Special School District

Tuesday, February 6, 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 Trenton 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 postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Trenton Special School District is an educational community with a diverse student population of 1,267 students; and

WHEREAS, Trenton Special School District 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, mental health counseling, afterschool tutoring and enrichment opportunities, fine arts courses and clubs, athletic teams, a K-12 STEM program, 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, Trenton Special School District is a cornerstone of the local community, with 194 employees who provide educational services to all students regardless of background, need or ability; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trenton Special School District 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 Trenton Special School District Board of Education urges the Tennessee General Assembly to consider the effects that the Vouchers/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 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024, by the Trenton Special School District Board of Education.

 \_\_\_\_\_ Justin Weaver, Board Chairman

 \_\_\_\_\_ Dee Ann McEwen, Vice Chairman

 \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Mark Harper, Chairman Pro-Tem

 \_\_\_\_\_ Clint Hickerson, Fiscal Agent

 \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Andrews-Young, Legislative Liaison

 \_\_\_\_\_ Tim Haney, Director of Schools