

Resolution 1.8.24A

A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN GRAINGER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY, GRAINGER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND GRAINGER COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM 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 Grainger County Legislative Body, the Grainger County Board of Education and the Grainger County School System enthusiastically support the mission, vision, beliefs, and goals of the Grainger County School System and believe public funds should be directed to public schools for the betterment of the student population and community overall; and

WHEREAS, the Grainger County School System educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

WHEREAS, Grainger County 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 Grainger County Legislative Body, the Grainger County School Board and the Grainger County School system 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.

Duly passed and approved this 8th day of Jan., 2024

APPROVED: Mike Byrd

Mike Byrd, Mayor

Mark Briscoe

Mark Briscoe, Director of Schools

ATTEST: Angie Lamb

Angie Lamb, County Clerk

