

A JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS, CLINTON CITY SCHOOLS, OAK RIDGE CITY SCHOOLS, CLINTON CITY COUNCIL, OAK RIDGE CITY COUNCIL AND THE ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING THE EDUCATION FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP ACT

Anderson County Resolution Number 23-12-1144

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 Anderson County Commission, Clinton City Council, and Oak Ridge City Council enthusiastically supports the mission, vision, beliefs, and goals of the Anderson County Schools, Clinton City Schools, and Oak Ridge City Schools and believes public funds should be directed to public schools for the betterment of the student population and community overall; and

WHEREAS, Anderson County Schools, Clinton City Schools, and Oak Ridge City Schools educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

WHEREAS, Anderson County Schools, Clinton City Schools, and Oak Ridge 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 Anderson County School Board, The Clinton City School Board, and The Oak Ridge City School Board and the Anderson County Board of Commissioners 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 Anderson County Schools this 14th day of December 2023.

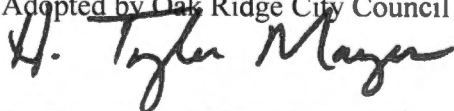
Adopted by Anderson County Commission this 18th day of December 2023.

Adopted by Clinton City Schools this 14th day of December 2023.

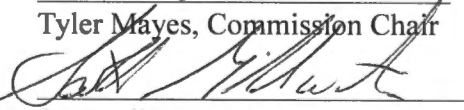
Adopted by Clinton City Council this 15th day of December 2023.

Adopted by Oak Ridge City Schools this 8th day in December 2023.

Adopted by Oak Ridge City Council this 11th day in December 2023.

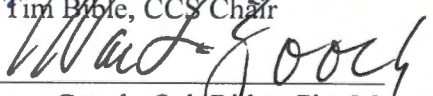



Tyler Mayes, Commission Chair


Scott Gillenwaters, ACS Chair


Scott Burton, Clinton City Mayor

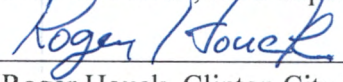

Dr. Tim Bible, CCS Chair

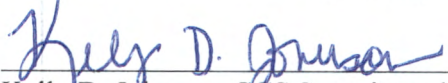

Warren Gooch, Oak Ridge City Mayor


Keys Fillauer, ORCS Chair

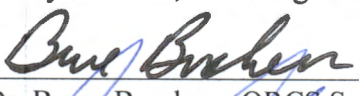
Terry Frank, County Mayor\


Dr. Tim Parrott, ACS Superintendent


Roger Houck, Clinton City Manager


Kelly D. Johnson, CCS Superintendent


Randy Hemann, Oak Ridge City Manager


Dr. Bruce Borchers, ORCS Superintendent


Jim Dodson, O. R. City Mayor, Pro Tem