

RESOLUTION OPPOSING EDUCATION VOUCHER LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education is responsible for managing all public schools established or that may be established under its jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, there is pending legislation before the Tennessee General Assembly that would create a voucher program allowing students to use public education funds to pay for private school tuition (voucher programs are also known as "opportunity scholarships," "education savings," "tax credits;" or similar terms); and

WHEREAS, proponents have spent millions to convince the public and lawmakers of their efficacy; yet, more than five decades after introduction, vouchers remain controversial, unproven and unpopular; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee requires that the Tennessee General Assembly "provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools;" and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has established nationally-recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

WHEREAS, vouchers eliminate accountability by channeling taxes to private schools without the same academic or testing requirements, public budgets or reports on student achievement, open meetings and records law adherence, public accountability requirements in major federal laws, including special education laws; and

WHEREAS, vouchers have not been proven effective at improving student achievement or closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, vouchers leave students behind, including those with the greatest needs, because vouchers channel tax dollars into private schools that are not required to accept all students, nor offer the special services they may need; and

WHEREAS, underfunded public schools are less able to attract and retain teachers; and

WHEREAS, vouchers give choices to private entities, rather than to parents and students, since the providers decide whether to accept vouchers, how many and which students to admit, and potentially arbitrary reasons they might dismiss a student; and

WHEREAS, vouchers divert critical funds from public schools to pay private school tuition for a few students, including those who already attend private schools; and

WHEREAS, vouchers are inefficient, compelling taxpayers to support two school systems: one public and one private, the latter of which is not accountable to all taxpayers supporting it;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education opposes any legislation or other similar effort to create a voucher program in Tennessee that would divert money intended for public education to private entities.

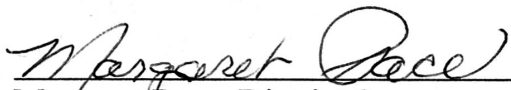
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to the Governor, each member of the Tennessee General Assembly, and Montgomery County Commission as well as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Tennessee.


ADOPTED BY THE ELECTED CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERYCOUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, meeting in regular session on the 9th day of April, 2019, with this Resolution to take immediate effect, the public welfare requiring it.

We, the Clarksville-Montgomery County Board of Education, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of this Resolution Opposing Education Voucher Legislation.

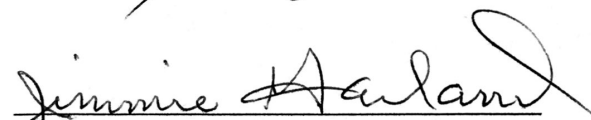
Signed :


Carol Berry, District 1


Margaret Pace, District 2


Danny Kittrell, District 3

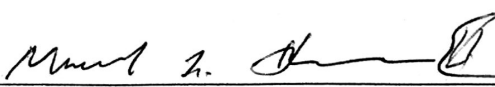

Anne Murtha, District 4


Jimmie Garland, District 5


Charlie Patterson, District 6


Josh Baggett, District 7

Attest:


Millard House, Director of Schools, Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools