



## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING EDUCATION VOUCHER LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Wilson 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 also are 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

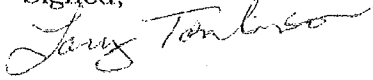
**WHEREAS**, vouchers are inefficient, compelling taxpayers to support two school systems: one public and one private, the latter of which is not accountable to all taxpayers supporting it;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wilson 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 Wilson County Commission, as well as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Tennessee.

**ADOPTED BY THE ELECTED WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**, meeting in regular session on the 10th of January, 2019, with this Resolution to take immediate effect, the public welfare requiring it.

Signed,



I, Larry Tomlinson, Chairman of the Board of Wilson County Schools, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of this Resolution Opposing Education Voucher Legislation.

WITNESS my hand at Wilson County Board of Education, 415 Harding Drive, Lebanon, Tennessee, on this Tenth day of January 2019.

Signed,



Dr. Donna L. Wright, Director of Schools, Wilson County Board of Education