



**Resolution by The Cabarrus County Board of Education
Concerning Universal Private School Vouchers**

WHEREAS the North Carolina State Constitution guarantees the opportunity to a sound basic education for all children in our state and requires that “the General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools, which shall be maintained at least nine months in every year, and wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students”; and

WHEREAS in the *Leandro* litigation, the North Carolina courts have repeatedly determined that the State of North Carolina, is not meeting its constitutional obligation to provide the opportunity for a sound basic education to all public school students; and

WHEREAS HB 823/SB 406, “Choose Your School, Choose Your Future,” is a universal voucher program that would divert billions of dollars of available public funds to private schools. Further, private schools are not equally available to all students and have no objective oversight process for how they use public dollars; and

WHEREAS unlike public schools, private schools can reject students based on discriminatory criteria; and

WHEREAS providing public dollars to four separate schooling options (traditional public schools; public charter schools; private schools; and homeschools) does not provide a “uniform” system of education for all students; and

WHEREAS the vastly different mechanisms for oversight and operation of these four education options create an uneven playing field; and

WHEREAS access to the various education options is limited to many students based on factors such as, but not limited to, availability of transportation, the need for special education instruction, the ability to provide breakfast and lunch, purchase school supplies, and parental engagement; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Office of State Budget Management projects that the Cabarrus County Schools its state funding drop by \$2,970,159 by FY 2026-27 if this universal voucher program is enacted; and

WHEREAS when state funding decreases, the percentage of per pupil funding going towards fixed costs, which includes electricity, water, sewer, gas, internet, fuel, etc., increases and the amount of per pupil funding going towards educating students decreases; and

WHEREAS the opportunity scholarship was established to provide an opportunity for students in low-income households to have a choice to attend a private school; and

WHEREAS the current legislative proposal in both the House and Senate removes all income caps; and

WHEREAS high income families already choose to attend private schools and do not need a public school voucher.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Cabarrus County Board of Education opposes any voucher bill or budget provision that does not include a household income limit as a meaningful part of the eligibility criteria and does not meet the North Carolina Constitution's requirement to provide a free and uniform system of public education to ALL students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly should create a new allotment to cover the fixed costs to operate school buildings that is not included in the per-pupil funding formula; and

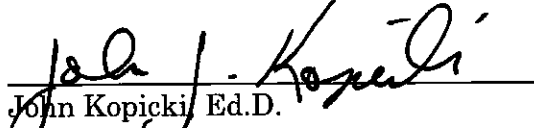
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. The Chair and Superintendent are authorized to disseminate this Resolution to members of the General Assembly and the Governor, and
2. The Board encourages parents, students, and other community members to contact their North Carolina legislators to implore them to abide by their oath to uphold the North Carolina Constitution.

Adopted by The Cabarrus County Board of Education this 5th day of June, 2023.


Denise Adcock
Board Chair

ATTEST:


John Kopicki, Ed.D.
Superintendent