

**Resolution Requesting the State of North Carolina Provide Adequate Support  
for Public Education  
Jackson County Board of Education**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's public schools are vital components of our communities, providing transformative education, fostering opportunity, and contributing to economic prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, 84% of North Carolina's school-aged children and ~50% of school aged-children in Jackson County attend public schools, reflecting high levels of parental satisfaction and confidence in the quality of education provided; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative to continue investing in public schools to uphold their critical role as pillars of community cohesion and economic prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's public schools are governed by our local communities, and it is imperative that local leaders advocate for our public schools and the successes and challenges they face in providing a sound basic education for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina's public schools have achieved significant milestones, including record-high graduation rates, increased workforce credentials earned by students, and national recognition for educators; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these accomplishments, North Carolina faces challenges such as inadequate funding for public education, ranking near the bottom nationally in K-12 funding, and lagging behind our neighboring states in teacher compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina State Constitution requires the State to ensure all children in the State have the opportunity to receive a sound, basic education; and

**WHEREAS**, lottery proceeds are now used to supplant other private education appropriations instead of supplementing public education funding; and

**WHEREAS**, private schools receiving public money lack accountability measures such as reporting how students perform, what is being taught, or whether they employ licensed teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, private schools are not mandated the same testing requirements for students, are not mandated the same licensing requirements for staff, and are not mandated the same reporting requirements for finances; and

**WHEREAS**, the diversion of public funds to private schools through taxpayer funds poses a significant financial threat to public schools, potentially depriving them of essential resources and compromising the quality of education for all students; and

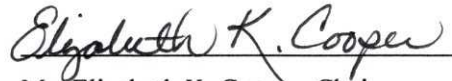
**WHEREAS**, in the first year of taxpayer funded private school expansion, our state's public schools could lose more than \$200 million in state funding, and Jackson County could lose \$574,869.00 or 2% in state funding, with hundreds of millions lost in coming years; and

**WHEREAS**, resources should be allocated towards expanding access to pre-kindergarten and quality child care, increasing teacher salaries, providing necessary school supplies, enhancing educational facilities, and ensuring equitable opportunities for students with disabilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Jackson County Board of Education hereby urges the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize public education by:

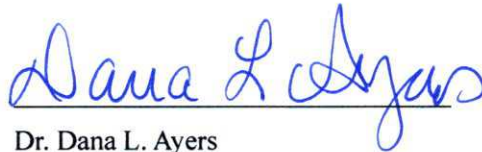
1. Substantially increasing teacher salaries to pay teachers as the professionals they are and to attract and retain qualified educators; and
2. Allocating significant funding towards early childhood education, quality childcare, and pre-kindergarten programs to ensure all children have access to a strong educational foundation; and
3. Fully fund every student's right to a sound basic education, which ensures taxpayer resources are invested in accountable and regulated public education institutions.

Adopted by the Jackson County Board of Education this 25th day of June, 2024.



Ms. Elizabeth K. Cooper, Chair

Jackson County Board of Education



Dr. Dana L. Ayers

Superintendent