

Resolution Urging the State to Fulfill its Constitutional Duty to Provide Funding for Public Schools

WHEREAS, the founding of the state of North Carolina in 1789 coincides with the founding of the first public university in the nation;

WHEREAS, our state has been known nationally and internationally for its research and discovery due to our commitment to public education;

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina is consistently ranked high nationally for its economic growth and healthy business climate;

WHEREAS, the Office of State Budget and Management projects a state budget surplus of \$3.25 billion dollars for 2022-2023 and predicts a 10.7% revenue increase;

WHEREAS, in the early 1800s in Massachusetts, Horace Mann conceived of the Common School Movement which ensured every child could receive a basic education funded by taxes;

WHEREAS, Mann's influence spread to other states with his philosophy that public schools are the "great equalizer of conditions of men";

WHEREAS, ninety-two percent of all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade are educated in public schools;

WHEREAS, the social, emotional, and academic needs of children have become more severe and varied since the Covid-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, what are called North Carolina's "Opportunity Scholarships" were created in 2013 for low-income families to help subsidize private school tuition;

WHEREAS, the current voucher program already receives \$133 million dollars;

WHEREAS, a new bill in each chamber of legislature intends to remove the income cap for families; therefore, parents from any level of affluence can apply for a private school voucher;

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

WHEREAS, the Education Law Center ranks North Carolina 50th in school funding efforts,

WHEREAS, the State Constitution and North Carolina General Statutes place the responsibility to fund a public school system that provides every child in the state with access to a sound basic education;

WHEREAS, using taxpayer dollars to further support private schools is objectionable and undermines public education;

WHEREAS, adequate educational opportunities cannot realistically be provided without adequate education funding;

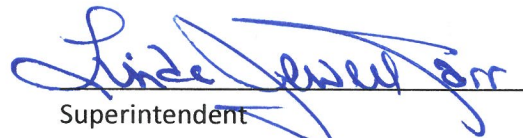
WHEREAS, a proposal to expand vouchers will further damage rural and poor districts creating more disadvantages for the marginalized students

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Washington County Board of Education request(s) that the North Carolina General Assembly vacate the proposal to expand vouchers and members recommit themselves to properly funding for the overwhelming majority of our young people.

Adopted by the Washington County Board of Education this 23 day of May, 2023.



Board Chair
Washington County Board of Education



Superintendent
Washington County Schools