

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education
Resolution Urging the North Carolina General Assembly to Reject
Voucher Plan

WHEREAS, for more than 29 years, North Carolina lawmakers from both parties have failed to meet their constitutional obligation to provide all children in the state with a sound basic education;

WHEREAS, far too many students, particularly students of color, students from economically-disadvantaged families, students with disabilities, English learners, and rural students have been denied the opportunities promised to them under the North Carolina Constitution;

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 with the State of North Carolina, both the executive and legislative branches;

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

WHEREAS, North Carolina's school funding effort – the amount of public school spending as a share of our state's general domestic product – ranks last among all states in the nation;

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2022, the North Carolina Supreme Court ordered the State to fully implement the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan ("Leandro Plan") to remedy the ongoing constitutional violations in our public school system and ensure that all students have access to the education they are owed under the State Constitution;

WHEREAS, comments from legislative leadership and the House Budget proposal passed on April 6, 2023 indicate that the General Assembly has no intention to implement the Leandro Plan or to meaningfully address inadequate school funding levels;

WHEREAS, voucher bills such as H.B. 823 and S.B. 406 would dramatically reduce available revenue that should be used to fulfill the constitutional rights of North Carolina's 1.5 million public school students;

WHEREAS, voucher bills such as H.B. 823 and S.B. 406 further pressure local school budgets by reducing public school enrollments, and therefore, state appropriations to school districts;

WHEREAS, voucher bills such as H.B. 823 and S.B. 406 lead to more racial segregation of our schools, harming students and raising the costs of education;

WHEREAS, voucher bills such as H.B. 823 and S.B. 406 undermine collective support for the societal benefits of strong, inclusive public school systems;

WHEREAS, debate over voucher bills such as H.B. 823 and S.B. 406 takes away from time that legislators should be using to discuss how to finally fulfill the constitutional rights of North Carolina's 1.5 million public school students;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education request(s) that the North Carolina General Assembly reject expansion of voucher plans until the Leandro Plan is fully implemented and all North Carolina students have access to a sound basic education.

Adopted by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education, this 13th day of June, 2023.

By: Deanna Kaplan
Deanna Kaplan, Chairperson

Attest: Tricia McManus
Tricia McManus, Superintendent