

## RESOLUTION

**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
IN OPPOSITION TO VOUCHERS**

**PROPOSED BY:  
AMBER ROUNTREE**

**WHEREAS**, the Knox County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 50 years have passed since private school vouchers were first proposed, and during that time proponents have spent millions of dollars attempting to convince the public and lawmakers of the concept's efficacy, and yet, five decades later, vouchers still 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", with no mention of the maintenance or support of private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee, through work of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Department of Education, the State Board of Education and local school boards, has established nationally recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers eliminate public accountability by channeling tax dollars into private schools that do not face state-approved academic standards, do not make budgets public, do not adhere to open meetings and records laws, do not publicly report on student achievement, and do not face the public accountability requirements contained in major federal laws, including special education; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers have not been effective at improving student achievement or closing the achievement gap, with the most credible research finding little or no difference in voucher and public school students' performance; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers leave many 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

