

Iowa City Community School District

Voucher Opposition Resolution

Director Pilcher Hayek introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Director Eastham after due consideration thereof by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the roll having been called, the following Directors voted:

Aye: Claussen, Eastham, Eyestone, Finch, Pilcher Hayek, Malone

Nay: None

Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the legislature will consider enacting vouchers; and

WHEREAS, the Board, in consultation with its community, has determined that the Iowa legislature should not enact voucher programs, regardless of branding, and should continue to promote and fully invest in Iowa's public schools, more specifically:

- *Public dollars are for the use of public community members. The public's investment should be used to support public schools within our communities. Given the pandemic's profound impact on public schools, it is important to ensure public funds support staff, programs and services that meet the needs of Iowa's public schools. These schools serve all students regardless of race, religion, gender, socio-economic status, and disability. Private schools operate under no requirement to serve all students, making competition an unfair argument.*
- *Public funds require public accountability and transparency. The proposed bill illustrates difficulties in ensuring appropriate oversight. Public schools are overseen by a publicly elected citizen governing board, are required to report academic results to the general public, have an annual public financial audit, and must be transparent with all expenditures and decision-making. Private and religious schools are not held to any of these standards.*
- *The benefits of strong public schools encourage both small and large businesses to invest in our communities and contribute toward expanded economic development throughout Iowa. A well-educated populace becomes an employable populace.*
- *This promises to be an ongoing, expansive, and costly voucher program. As demonstrated in other states, while voucher systems may start small, once programs are established, they are easily expanded. Underserved families will be unable to fund the difference between the amount of the provided voucher and the costs of tuition at a private institution. The proposed voucher program would divert crucial public dollars from Iowa public schools, which educate the vast majority of students in the state.*
- *Public school funding has remained at record low levels of increase for over a decade, limiting public school opportunities to innovate or expand future-ready program offerings. State legislators seem unable or unwilling to adequately fund even one educational system. A second taxpayer funded voucher system promises to divert even more funding away from the public school system that is entrusted with educating the very large majority of young Iowans.*

WHEREAS, this Board believes that Iowa public schools provide a storied and strong educational environment for Iowa's children, and that voucher programs of any type, would put the system at risk by directing resources away from public schools to private institutions who are not subject to the same rigorous scrutiny, educational standards, or oversight for their use of taxpayer resources.

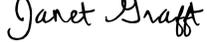
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board:

Passed and approved this 22 day of February, 2022

DocuSigned by:

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Shawn Eyestone, Board President

Attest:

DocuSigned by:

98F77BB93FF41E...
Janet Graff, Board Secretary