

RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Constitutional Support of Public Schools

WHEREAS, the mission of the public education system of Texas is to ensure that all Texas children have access to quality education that enables them to achieve their potential and fully participate now and in the future in the social, economic and educational opportunities of our state and nation (Texas Education Code §4.001);

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor of Texas have made vouchers a priority on their agendas for the Texas 85th Legislative First Called Session, specifically calling for vouchers/education savings accounts (ESAs) for students with special needs;

WHEREAS, the traditional voucher plan, tax credits, education savings accounts or special education vouchers would divert public tax dollars to private entities or homeschool students with little or no financial accountability to the State, taxpayers or local communities; with exemption from state and federal accountability requirements; and are free from the burden of many state and federal regulations and mandates; and

WHEREAS, the Texas House of Representatives voted six times against private school choice during the Texas 85th Legislative Regular Session.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees respectfully empower and support our respected state legislators to act on behalf of the District's more than 74,000 students and 10,000 employees to uphold their constitutional "duty ... to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools" and focus their efforts on supporting the public schools, which, by their own laws, have been created to be available to and accessible by all children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators enforce compliance of laws already passed and support, through funding and otherwise, these mandates in order to ensure all special education students have access to resources and programs to support their education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state legislators oppose traditional vouchers, tax credit scholarships, ESAs, special education vouchers and other programs that divert tax dollars away from the more than 90 percent of the students in public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this priority begins within the leadership of the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees and together, we share one unified message to all involved:

We believe all children can learn, we have high expectations for each of the students we serve, we want to use all resources to make the difference in the lives of each child, the future of Texas depends on educating our growing enrollment with diverse needs, and the public schools are charged by the Texas Constitution with this great mission for Texas.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 17th day of July, 2017, by the Board of Trustees.