Kentucky Board of EDUCATION

Resolution Supporting the Use of State Dollars to Exclusively Fund the Common System of Public Schools

WHEREAS, to eliminate the disparities in schooling options across the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Constitution established a common system of public schools, creating a uniform framework that ensures all public schools operate under consistent rules.

WHEREAS, the common system of public schools is designed to provide equal educational opportunities for all Kentucky children, regardless of place of residence or economic circumstances.

WHEREAS, the common public schools must be monitored by the Kentucky General Assembly to assure that they are operated without waste, duplication, mismanagement, or political influence.

WHEREAS, schools outside the common system of public schools are not subject to the same accountability and transparency requirements as the common public schools in areas such as academic standards, finances, teacher qualifications, and student assessment, which can lead to inconsistencies in educational quality.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Kentucky General Assembly to adequately fund the system of common public schools and the creation of separate systems will lead to funding inequities and operational inefficiency.

WHEREAS, using state funds to support schools outside the common system of public schools diverts essential resources from public schools, weakening their capacity to effectively serve all students. This practice will also increase segregation based on socioeconomic status, race, and religion, thereby undermining the principles of equity and inclusivity that are fundamental to our public education system.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education is committed to ensuring that each and every Kentucky learner becomes an engaged citizen and empowered learner prepared to lead a life filled with purpose.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education is resolute in its position that public tax dollars should be allocated exclusively to public schools within the common system of schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Board of Education opposes any legislation or policy that would allocate state dollars to fund schools outside the common system of public schools and believes that the best way to ensure all students in Kentucky receive a high-quality education is by supporting the existing public education system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board stands ready to work with the Kentucky General Assembly to advise on matters of education policy to elevate Kentucky's system of common schools to a national model that provides vibrant learning experiences for every student, regardless of background.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Kentucky General Assembly to prioritize investments in public education and continue to partner with the Kentucky Department of Education to support initiatives that strengthen existing public schools so that all students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

ADOPTED by the Kentucky Board of Education on this 7th day of October, 2024.