

Resolution Affirming State Dollars Should Be Used Exclusively to Fund the Common System of Public Schools

WHEREAS, the right for each and every child to a fully funded public school is enshrined in the Kentucky Constitution, affirmed in the landmark *Rose* decision;

WHEREAS, the Constitution assigns to the General Assembly the sole obligation of maintaining and funding the common system of public schools to ensure that all Kentucky children have access to equal educational opportunities;

WHEREAS, Kentucky's system of common public schools is rooted in local, democratic government, monitored by the elected members of the Kentucky General Assembly and managed by locally elected Boards of Education and School Based Decision Making Councils;

WHEREAS, schools operating outside the common system of public schools are not subject to the same accountability and transparency requirements as the common public schools and are not managed by locally elected officials accountable to the people in those communities;

WHEREAS, numerous studies and experiences in other states underscore that diverting tax dollars from public schools results in funding inequities, reduced access to funds, and inefficiencies;

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education recently adopted a resolution on October 7, 2024, declaring, "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 Fayette County Board of Education declared in its 2024 Legislative Priorities, "We are not afraid of competition as long as we are all playing by the same rules. As public schools are still struggling to make ends meet, diverting already limited funds to private schools is not an economically sound decision for the Commonwealth";

WHEREAS, the Fayette County Board of Education believes every voter should cast an informed vote rooted in facts and evidence, fully aware the consequences of electoral outcomes will have on public schools in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fayette County Board of Education affirms its ongoing opposition to any legislation or policy with the net effect of diverting state dollars away from our public schools to fund schools outside the common system of public schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fayette County Board of Education affirms its belief that expanding educational opportunities for each and every child in our Commonwealth requires fully and adequately funding our public schools and recognizing the vital role they play in their communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fayette County Board of Education will continue to engage with community partners, including government, civic, and economic leaders to strengthen the partnerships that make our work on behalf of our students possible.

**Adapted from Kentucky Board of Education Resolution adopted October 7, 2024.