




August 17, 2023

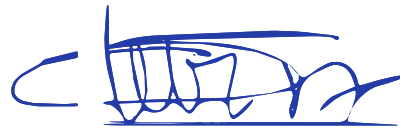
To Whom It May Concern,

We believe that public schools play a vital role in fostering a sense of community and ensuring equitable access for all students. By diverting public funds to private institutions through voucher programs, we risk undermining the foundation of our public school system, which could result in reduced resources for the very institutions responsible for shaping our children's future. Worse, voucher programs could inadvertently allow for selective admissions and leave students with special needs behind. Simply stated,

- Private school vouchers redirect funding without academic or financial accountability;
- There is no requirement for private organizations that receive public dollars through a voucher to serve students with special needs; and
- The redirection of funding to private organizations will have vast implications on the future of education across Texas.

Public schools are required to accommodate all students regardless of their backgrounds or abilities, and we should continue to receive the necessary funding to fulfill this mission.

  
Melody Fowler  
Board President

  
Steven L. Wurtz, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION  
VOUCHERS, EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANTS,  
AND OTHER MECHANISMS THAT REDUCE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING**

STATE OF TEXAS                   §  
  §  
COUNTY OF TARRANT         §

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires that the Texas Legislature “establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools;”

WHEREAS, Texas public school districts accept every student;

WHEREAS, education savings accounts and other voucher schemes give private schools, not parents, the right to choose;

WHEREAS, Arlington ISD believes in the Texas Foundation School Program and that programming supporting special education students in our public schools should be properly funded;

WHEREAS, Texas parents who accept a voucher could deprive themselves of important parental rights outlined in the Texas Education Code and federal law, especially protections provided in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for students receiving special education services;

WHEREAS, Texas public schools adhere to state-mandated academic and financial accountability standards;

WHEREAS, private schools are not required to meet the same academic standards as public schools, and they are not required to report test results, graduation rates, and other performance measures to the public;

WHEREAS, Arlington ISD hires only bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral-degree holding teachers deemed certified and highly qualified by the State Board of Education;

WHEREAS, school choice already exists in Texas via public school districts, charter schools, inter-district and intra-district transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools;

WHEREAS, Arlington ISD already promotes school choice through a rich variety of learning pathways, including the Fine Arts and Dual Language Academies, World Language Academy, Leadership Academy, elementary and secondary STEM Academies, Early College High Schools, Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH), International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, and over 40 career and technical education (CTE) opportunities;

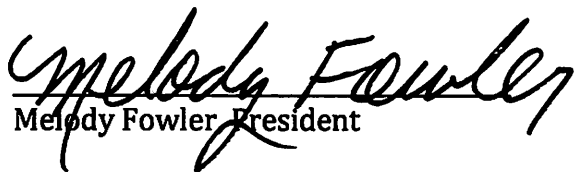
WHEREAS, education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes eliminate public accountability of schools and tax dollars;

WHEREAS, a taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of state funds available for all schools, harming many rural Texas communities where families have few, if any, private school options; and

WHEREAS, using tax dollars to pay for tuition at private and religious schools would grow into a costly entitlement program;

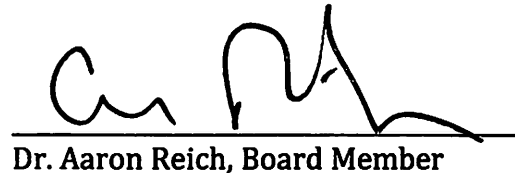
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington ISD Board of Trustees is committed to supporting both learning and parental choice and calls on the Texas Legislature to reject any diversion of public dollars to private entities in the form of education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

  
Melody Fowler, President

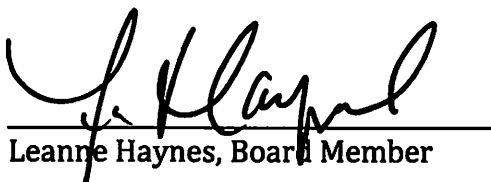
  
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