



RESOLUTION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
January 8, 2020

RESOLUTION NO. 01-08-20-01

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO EdCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP (VOUCHER) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code § 3302.10 provides that the Chief Executive Officer shall exercise complete operational, managerial, and instructional control of the District; and

WHEREAS, the powers and duties of the Chief Executive Officer include, but are not limited to, creating a budget for the District and modifying policies and procedures established by the District board; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has recently made amendments which greatly increase the number and availability of vouchers for students to attend private/parochial schools at public tax expense, and

WHEREAS, such vouchers will be available to numerous families and students who have never attended Youngstown City School District or any other public schools and for whom state funding has never been provided to Youngstown City Schools or any other public schools, and

WHEREAS, Youngstown City School District's state funding will be unjustly decreased by the amount of the vouchers provided to such families and students who have not and will not attend public schools and others who transfer to private/parochial schools, and

WHEREAS, the estimated loss of revenue to the Youngstown City School District would devastate the District's finances, and

WHEREAS, private/parochial schools accepting students with public tax vouchers would not be required to accept all students but would be permitted to retain their selective admission policies without enforcement of other laws applicable to public schools, and

WHEREAS, private/parochial school students are not subject to the testing standards required of public school students so that the actual performance of private/parochial schools subsidized with public tax dollars will not be known, relative to equivalent public school evaluation standards, and

WHEREAS, Youngstown City School District believes that the EdChoice voucher program as it currently exists presents serious constitutional issues regarding the separation of church and state and the funding of religious institutions with public tax dollars, and



WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has the constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools, and

WHEREAS, the EdChoice voucher program will have exactly the opposite effect by providing funding to private/parochial schools at the expense and to the detriment of public schools and their students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Youngstown City School District reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools that are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for ALL children and therefore opposes and respectfully requests the repeal of the ill-conceived EdChoice voucher program of the State of Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Youngstown City School District opposes any funding programs, vouchers or otherwise, that have the effect of diverting public tax dollars from public schools to private/parochial schools.

This resolution was considered by the Chief Executive Officer and is adopted upon the signature of the Chief Executive Officer.


Justin M. Jennings, Chief Executive Officer

1/8/19
Date