

# PRESS RELEASE

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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## KCPS Board Resolves to Continue Opposing School Privatization Attempts

*Resolution drafted in response to unprecedented efforts in legislation*

**Kansas City, February 25, 2021:** The Kansas City Public Schools Board of Directors approved unanimously the following resolution on Feb. 24, 2021. The resolution was drafted in response to unprecedented efforts in the Missouri legislature to privatize public education through the use of charter schools managed by private corporations, education savings accounts that divert public funds to private or for-profit education options, and the forced endorsement of unregulated, for-profit virtual schools.

### **Student Protection Resolution**

**WHEREAS** the Kansas City Public Schools Board of Education (Board) has been elected by the residents of the Kansas City MO School District (No.33) (District) to govern publicly-funded education for the children living in the District;

**WHEREAS** the citizens of the District believe that every single child deserves a quality K-12 education;

**WHEREAS** the citizens of the District and the Board believe that education is essential to the community to ensure a qualified workforce, to minimize poverty, and to maintain an informed electorate and good community governance;

**WHEREAS** residents of the District pay property tax, sales tax and income tax at the local and state level to ensure that the District can maintain quality schools;

**WHEREAS** the residents of the District expect that the Board and the state are good stewards of taxpayer dollars and it is the Board's obligation to verify that public funds only go to quality programs; and

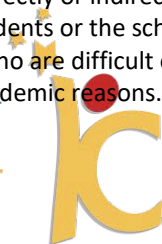
**WHEREAS** there is an unprecedented effort in the legislature to privatize public education through the use of charter schools managed by private corporations, education savings accounts that divert public funds to private or for-profit education options, and the forced endorsement of unregulated, for-profit virtual schools;

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The Board is opposed to private and for-profit companies educating or managing the education of students without the supervision of an elected, volunteer school board comprised of resident taxpayers of the District. This ensures that the focus is on education and not profits, students and not shareholders, that public funds are spent transparently for educational purposes, and that community members can monitor how funds are spent on student educational outcomes.
2. The Board believes that any school receiving public funds should be required to educate all students, regardless of the student's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, socioeconomic status or proficiency in the English language. Therefore the Board opposes educational options where schools directly or indirectly receive public funds if the school is not required to enroll and educate all students or the school is allowed to selectively enroll, indirectly exclude students, counsel students who are difficult or costly to educate not to attend the school, or "disenroll" students for academic reasons.

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3. The Board believes that any school that receives public funds directly, or indirectly through a tax credit, must be held to the same accountability measures as public schools, including, but not limited to:
  - a. Accreditation by the State Board of Education (State Board);
  - b. Administration of the same state assessments.
  - c. Alignment of the curriculum to the Missouri learning standards;
  - d. Disclosure of curriculum, attendance rates, graduation rates, test scores and student demographics to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE);
  - e. Verification that all instructors of students are Missouri certified teachers; and
  - f. Compliance with transparency, financial and safety measures applicable to public schools.
4. The Board believes that all state educational initiatives funded by public tax dollars should be governed and monitored by DESE and the State Board.