

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING  
THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE 88<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATURE  
FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND  
AGAINST VOUCHERS OR EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

**WHEREAS**, the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature will meet for a third special session in the fall of 2023;

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

**WHEREAS**, the State of Texas received more than \$30 billion surplus revenue this biennium;

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has not made any adjustments to the Basic Allotment since 2019;

**WHEREAS**, local school districts are facing historic levels of inflation of 17% and would need a \$900 increase in the Basic Allotment to address inflationary costs alone;

**WHEREAS**, local school districts are facing a statewide and nationwide teacher and staff shortage, requiring competitive compensation for teachers and staff;

**WHEREAS**, the Northwest Independent School District adopted a \$3 million deficit to sustain pay increases for staff, student instructional programs of choice, and extracurricular activities;

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Commission on Special Education indicated that special education is underfunded by \$1.8 billion in the State of Texas while the population of students served in Special Education is increasing;

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 3 passed during the 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session requires the addition of armed personnel for all campuses without sufficient funding necessary for local school districts to implement this requirement;

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1416 passed during the 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session is an unfunded mandate, and federal ESSER dollars utilized to support high quality tutoring programs for students are ending;

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, providing vouchers to families for Special Education services does not address the fact that Texas school districts have never been fully funded to implement the requirements of IDEA;

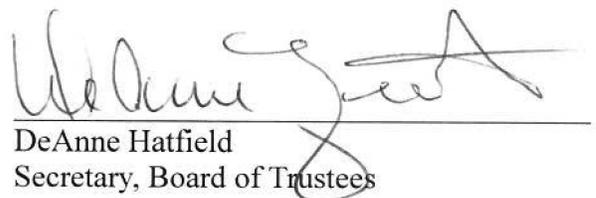
**WHEREAS**, a taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the state funds available for all schools, harming many rural Texas communities where families have few, if any, private school options;

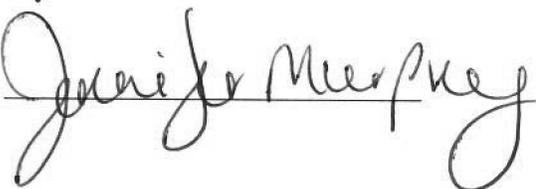
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northwest Independent School District Board of Trustees calls on the Texas Legislature to:

1. Reject any diversion of public dollars in the form of education savings accounts or vouchers to private entities who are not required to comply with Texas Education Code provisions for transparency and accountability; and
2. Support an increase to the Basic Allotment and address crippling inflation and unfunded mandates placed on Texas public schools.

Adopted on September 25, 2023 by the Northwest ISD Board of Trustees.

  
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R. Stephen Sprawls  
President, Board of Trustees

  
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DeAnne Hatfield  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Attest:   
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Jennifer Murphy