

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION 09192023-1

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

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF PARKER

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, including Aledo ISD, accept every student;

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

WHEREAS, our community has high expectations about how their children are served in our schools, how their tax dollars are used, and of the level of transparency we provide in all matters;

WHEREAS, Aledo ISD schools and all 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 do not report test results, graduation rates, and other performance measures to the public;

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

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

WHEREAS, during multiple sessions during 2023, including the 88th regular legislative session, Texas lawmakers did not deliver on promised and expected increases in funding for teacher and staff compensation and safety to Texas public schools, even with a \$33 billion surplus available to them at the state level;

WHEREAS, using tax dollars to pay for tuition at private and religious schools would grow into a costly entitlement program at a time when the State is not allocating enough funding to public schools, including those in Aledo ISD, to address required, increased and non-discretionary expenditures caused by market forces and inflation;

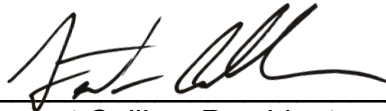
WHEREAS, a taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of state funds available for all schools, harming communities like ours that are founded upon strong public schools;

WHEREAS, Texas parents who accept a voucher would lose out on a long list of important parental rights outlined in the Texas Education Code and in federal law, especially protections for students receiving special education services; and

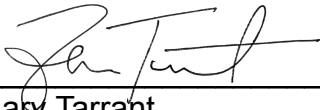
WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature may meet again in 2023 to discuss public schools if Governor Greg Abbott calls another special session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Aledo ISD Board of Trustees 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.

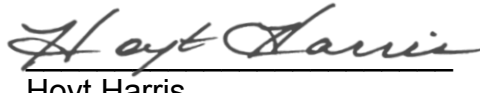
PASSED AND APPROVED on this 19 day of September, 2023.



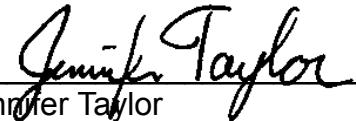
Forrest Collins, President



Zachary Tarrant



Hoyt Harris



Jennifer Taylor



Jennifer Loftin



Jessica Brown, Vice President



David Lear, Secretary