

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE AMENDMENT 80 “SCHOOL CHOICE IN K-12 EDUCATION” TO PROTECT PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, public education is a fundamental right and a cornerstone of democracy, providing all children—regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or background—with access to a high-quality, free education; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 80, known as "School Choice in K-12 Education," purports to expand educational options but represents an unnecessary change to the Colorado Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, school choice, which is supported by this Board, has been established in Colorado law since 1994, allowing parents and students to choose from a variety of educational environments, including neighborhood public schools, charter schools, private schools, homeschooling, and accredited online schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 80 would, for the first time, enshrine a right to private schooling in the Colorado Constitution, an unprecedented and unnecessary action; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 80 opens the door to public funds to be diverted from public schools to private institutions, reducing the resources available to support the 95% of students who rely on public schools and undermining the ability of public education to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of its students; and

**WHEREAS**, most rural areas lack private schools, and any program that redirects public funding to private institutions would further divert resources away from rural public schools and communities, disproportionately benefiting private schools in urban areas like Denver and Boulder; and

**WHEREAS** many private schools have selective admissions policies that exclude students with the greatest needs, including those requiring collaborative or special education services, and make these programs inaccessible to families who cannot afford additional costs such as tuition, transportation, or specialized services; and

**WHEREAS** any process that allowed public funding to be diverted to private undermines public accountability and transparency, as private schools that receive public funds through these programs are not held to the same rigorous standards of financial disclosure, inclusivity, or academic accountability as public schools; and

**WHEREAS** public school budgets are a reflection of community priorities and transparency in their development ensures that public funds are allocated equitably to support all students, particularly those who are most vulnerable; and

**WHEREAS** any program moving funding from public to private schools lacks such transparency, making it difficult to assess how diverted public funds are spent and whether they are benefiting marginalized students; and

**WHEREAS** other states that have diverted public school funding to private schools and similar programs, such as Arizona and Indiana, have experienced significant costs over projected, as high as \$1 billion over, and a failure to adequately serve low-income and marginalized students, resulting in reduced access to equitable, high-quality education for all students;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education opposes school vouchers and Amendment 80, commonly called "School Choice in K-12 Education," which falsely claims to offer school choice while ultimately creating a clear path to perpetuating and even increasing inequities in our public school funding and failing to meet the needs of marginalized students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education urges Coloradans to protect public education by ensuring that public funds are used exclusively to strengthen public schools and provide all students with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed and vote no on Amendment 80.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education encourages local, state, and national leaders to focus on improving public education through investments in equitable resources, teacher development, and community-based education programs that benefit all students rather than diverting funds to private institutions.

**Adopted by the Adams 12 Five Star School Board of Education at its meeting on September 18, 2024**