

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
ONslow COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
IN SUPPORT OF
LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of North Carolina guarantees the right to a general and uniform system of free local public schools, accessible to all students, which is maintained for a minimum of nine months each year; and

WHEREAS, local public schools play a foundational role in fostering a just society by promoting opportunity and civic responsibility across the state, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to succeed; and

WHEREAS, recent legislative actions have directed significant funding to the Opportunity Scholarship voucher program, redirecting resources to private schools that could have otherwise supported local public schools, many of which do not adhere to the same standards or accountability measures as public schools; and

WHEREAS, the lack of oversight, transparency, and accountability for private schools funded by public, taxpayer dollars through vouchers includes minimal teacher certification requirements, no mandated curriculum standards, and the absence of transportation and meal provisions for low-income families, thereby disproportionately hurting students in underserved communities, especially rural communities with agricultural based economies; and

WHEREAS, local public schools, unlike private schools are held to rigorous state standards in terms of curriculum, teacher certification, anti-discrimination laws, and student accountability, ensuring that all students, regardless of their abilities, background, or location, receive a high-quality education; and

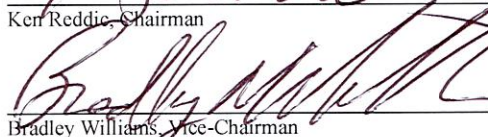
WHEREAS, continued underfunding of local public education threatens the viability of local public schools and public charter schools, directly contradicting the constitutional mandate to provide educational opportunities for all public school students in North Carolina;

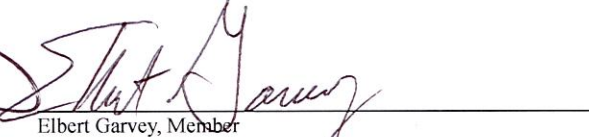
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onslow County Board of Education calls upon the North Carolina General Assembly to prioritize local public education and to fund our state's local public schools in accordance with the North Carolina Constitution, ensuring that every student receives the education they are entitled to, in a system that is equitable, transparent, and accountable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we oppose any further expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship voucher program at the expense of local public schools and urge lawmakers to prioritize funding for public schools, which serve the vast majority of North Carolina's children and provide a cornerstone of our democratic society by promoting an inclusive, educated citizenry upon which the future of our republic depends.

ADOPTED this 12th day of November in the year of 2024.


Ken Reddie, Chairman


Bradley Williams, Vice-Chairman


Elbert Garvey, Member


Bill Lanier, Member


Melissa Oakley, Member

Louis Rogers, Member

Angie Todd, Member