

## **A RESOLUTION OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Williamson County Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

**WHEREAS**, Williamson County Schools' students excel in performance and growth measures at the elementary, middle and high school levels, including TCAP, ACT, Advanced Placement, and other measures; and

**WHEREAS**, there is pending legislation before the Tennessee General Assembly that would create a voucher program allowing students to use public education funds to pay for private school tuition; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee requires that the Tennessee General Assembly "provide for the maintenance, support and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools", with no mention of the maintenance or support of private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee, through work of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Tennessee Department of Education, the State Board of Education and local school boards, including the Williamson County Board of Education, has established nationally recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers eliminate public accountability by channeling tax dollars into private schools that do not face state-approved academic standards, do not make budgets public, do not adhere to open meetings and records laws, do not publicly report on student achievement, and do not face the public accountability requirements contained in major federal laws, including special education; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers would leave many Williamson County students behind, including those with the greatest needs, because vouchers channel tax dollars into private schools that are not required to accept all students, nor offer the special services they may need; and

**WHEREAS**, private schools decide if they want to accept vouchers, how many and which students they want to admit, and make their own admission and dismissal decisions outside the parameters governing public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, voucher programs would divert critical dollars and commitment from Williamson County Schools to pay private school tuition for a few students, including many who already attend private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, vouchers are an inefficient use of Williamson County tax payer money because they compel taxpayers to support two school systems: one public and one private, the latter of which is not accountable to all the taxpayers supporting it; and

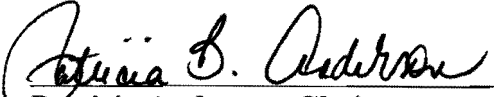
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:**

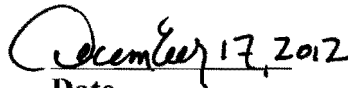
The Williamson County Board of Education opposes any legislation or other similar effort to create a voucher program that would divert money intended for public education in Williamson County to private schools.

Votes: 11 In Favor

         Against  
  1   Abstain

The Board authorizes its Chair to sign below, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Anderson, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date