

Resolution 5-2021

**WHEREAS:** The voucher expansion bills in Indiana are part of a long-term coordinated effort to diminish public schools, and Indiana's cumulative state spending for private school vouchers has now topped \$1 billion.

**WHEREAS:** Indiana's spending of tax dollars on vouchers has increased exponentially. In 2011-2012 the state spent \$15.5 million on vouchers; in 2019-2020 it was \$172.8 million dollars, that is 11 times more than the initial expense.

**WHEREAS:** Indiana currently ranks 45th in the nation for total K-12 education spending as a percentage of gross state product.

**WHEREAS:** Indiana's voucher system already deprives every public school system in Indiana \$172 per student. That means a school system of 6,000 students is losing more than \$1 million each year.

**WHEREAS:** According to legislators, the voucher program was created to help poor and minority children "trapped" in low-performing schools. The most recent statistics show that 57% of students receiving vouchers for the 2019-2020 school year were white, and 26% of voucher families have annual incomes of more than \$75,000.

**WHEREAS:** Indiana has one of the nation's largest voucher programs; it does not need to expand again.

**WHEREAS:** The taxpayers of Indiana are currently paying all or part of private school tuition for families earning up to \$95,000 a year. In Indiana's current voucher system, if a family qualifies for vouchers and their income increases, they remain eligible even if they make about double Indiana's median household income. This means that wealthy families with students already in private school would have their tuition bill paid for by all taxpayers, including low-income taxpayers. (School Matters, March 5, 2018)

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the School Board of Trustees of Portage Township Schools:

- 1) Continue to support Indiana's public schools to the maximum degree as they have gone above and beyond to deal with the demands of the pandemic and as they face the challenges of making up for lost learning and providing additional services for students.
- 2) Oppose the expansion of vouchers because this system is funding thousands of families that could afford private schools without help from taxpayers (School Matters March 5, 2018). These vouchers divert state dollars from the poorest and neediest of public school students in order to give to the wealthiest.
- 3) Encourage every public school family, and every business-conscious member of the public to protest the voucher expansion and discourage legislators from diverting scarce public education dollars.

**PAST AND ADOPTED** by the School Board of Trustees on this 8th day of February, 2021.

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Attest:

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Troy Williams, Secretary  
Board of School Trustees  
Portage Township Schools