

Resolution by the Board of School Trustees of Richmond Community Schools Strongly Opposing the Proposed Establishment of Education Savings Accounts

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering the establishment of education savings accounts (ESAs) that funnel state funding to parents who withdraw their children from public school.

WHEREAS, education savings accounts give parents the equivalent of a taxpayer-funded debit card for private school tuition, unregulated home schools, and educational services such as tutoring.

WHEREAS, public funds should be invested in public schools, which serve all children.

WHEREAS, public schools are subject to fiscal transparency, public oversight, and taxpayer accountability. Non-public schools are not. All schools that receive public funds should be held to the same set of standards.

WHEREAS, education savings accounts would be funded out of the K-12 tuition support appropriation at the expense of public schools and would consume much of Governor Holcomb's recommended tuition support increase of two (2) and one (1) percent for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023, respectively.

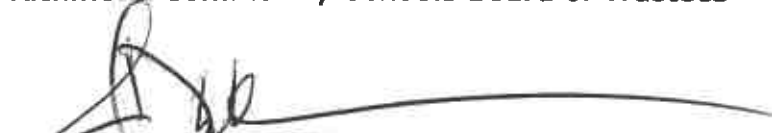
WHEREAS, House Bill 1005 seeks to create an education savings account scheme to be called the "Indiana education scholarship account program".

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 412 seeks to create an education savings account scheme to be known as the "Indiana personalized education grant program".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of School Trustees of Richmond Community Schools that it strongly opposes the establishment of education savings accounts, as proposed by members of the Indiana General Assembly in HB - 1005 and in SB - 412, in that their creation would result in potentially significant financial harm to Indiana's "Common Schools" that were mandated to be created and preserved by the Indiana General Assembly in Article 8 of the Indiana Constitution for which all members of that body as well as the members of this board of school trustees took an oath to uphold.

Approved February 24, 2021

Richmond Community Schools Board of Trustees

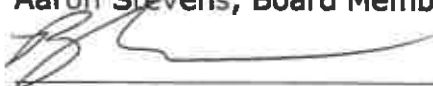

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