

Resolution Opposing the Establishment of Education Scholarship Accounts and the Expansion of the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session is considering the establishment of education savings accounts (ESAs) that funnel state funding to parents who withdraw their children from public schools, as well as a significant expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program.

WHEREAS, education savings accounts give parents a portion of per-pupil state funding to spend like a taxpayer-funded debit card on education products and services, including private school tuition, unregulated home schools, and tutoring.

WHEREAS, the expansion of the Indiana school choice scholarship program would direct additional resources to non-public schools that are not held accountable to taxpayers for the use of public funds.

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

WHEREAS, non-public schools lack fiscal transparency, public oversight, and taxpayer accountability.

WHEREAS, education scholarship accounts would be funded out of the K-12 tuition support appropriation at the expense of funding to support public schools.

WHEREAS, House Bill 1005 creates an education scholarship account program called the “Indiana education scholarship account program” and Senate Bill 412 creates an education savings account program titled the “Indiana personalized education grant program”.

WHEREAS, this legislation would further erode the financial support provided to Indiana’s public schools, which serve over 90% of Indiana’s students, and divert resources away from improving Indiana public school teachers’ salaries as recommended by the Governor’s Teacher Compensation Commission report, released on December 14, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, the school board of the Smith-Green Community Schools opposes and condemns the establishment of education scholarship accounts and the expansion of the Indiana choice scholarship program as proposed by members of Indiana’s General Assembly in House Bill 1005 and Senate Bill 412.

Approved this 22nd day of February, 2021.



Jeremy Hart, SGCS Board President



Emily Putt, SGCS Board Secretary