

**Joint Resolution between the Westfield Washington School Board
and the Westfield Certified Teachers Association Opposing HB 1005
and SB 413**

Resolution 2021- 03

WHEREAS, the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 legislative session is considering House Bill 1005, Senate Bill 413, and other bills that establish Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) and expand vouchers.

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Indiana General Assembly should not enact Education Savings Accounts, or expand vouchers, and should continue to promote and fully invest in Indiana's public schools, more specifically

- *To further the public good, public funds should be invested in improving the schools designed to serve all children and to aid in improving Indiana public school teachers' salaries as recommended by the Governor's Teacher Compensation Commission in its report of December 14, 2020.*
- *Indiana already has school choice in the form of open enrollment, charter schools, enrollment in virtual online schools, and the Choice Scholarship program.*
- *Public schools are required to operate in an open, transparent way with all expenditures and decision-making. Nonpublic schools are not held to that same public standard.*
- *Legislators should reduce the over-regulation of state and federal bureaucracy that hinders the ability of local schools to innovate and be responsive to parent and community needs.*

WHEREAS, the costs of Education Savings Accounts and school vouchers are covered exclusively by our state's school tuition support fund, further providing fewer public dollars to fund our public schools and increase teacher salaries.

WHEREAS, the Board believes that public schools provide a strong educational environment for Indiana's children and education savings accounts, if enacted, would put this environment at risk by directing resources away from those schools to nonpublic schools that are not subject to the same rigorous scrutiny for their use of taxpayer resources.


WHEREAS, there is no urgency to pass these measures during a pandemic that is already imposing severe financial constraints on public schools; and,

WHEREAS, parents in Indiana have an array of state funded options for schooling, including high quality public schools, choice scholarships, SGO tax credits, tax deductions for private school and home school education expenses, charter schools, innovation schools, and virtual schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved the school board of the Westfield Washington School Corporation, made up of locally elected and accountable board members representing our community opposes the passage and signing of HB1005, SB 413 or any other bill expanding vouchers and/or creating Education Savings Account into law.

Approved this 9th day of March, 2021.

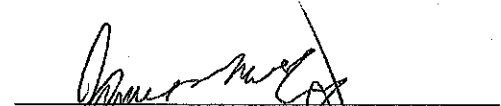
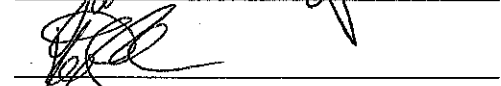
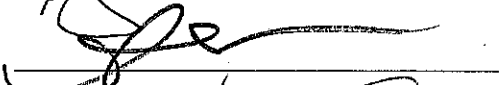
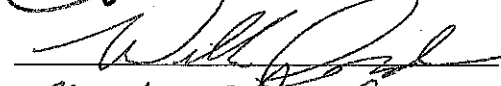
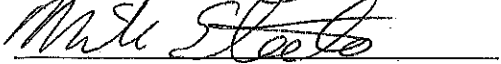
Westfield Certified Teachers Association


Chris Sluder, WCTA President


Westfield Washington Board of School Trustees

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ATTEST:


Secretary