

**Sioux City Community School District  
Board of Education  
RESOLUTION AGAINST SF 159 – SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS, VOUCHERS,  
EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND EXPANDED TAX CREDITS**

WHEREAS, the Iowa Legislature is considering enacting SF 159, a scholarship fund to endorse education savings accounts or vouchers, expanded open enrollment leading to segregation, expanded charter schools that can open in a school district without the locally elected school board's consent, and expanded tax credits, and,

WHEREAS, the Sioux City Community School District Board of Directors has determined that the Iowa Legislature should not enact any legislation of any kind that weakens support for public school students and should continue to promote and fully invest taxpayer resources in Iowa's public schools, who are barred by law from discriminating against any students and are held to standards set forth by both federal and state governments. Public schools are provided oversight by locally elected school boards and by the state of Iowa. Public schools must adhere to strict state testing requirements and ensure equitable access and outcomes for each learner regardless of income, race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or disability. Nonpublic schools are not held to the same public accountability standards. Iowa taxpayers deserve to know how their public funds are being used. School choice already exists in Iowa in the form of open enrollment, enrollment in private online institutions, tuition tax credits, and school tuition organization scholarships for families below 400% of the federal poverty level, and,

WHEREAS, The State of Iowa has the constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools and provide for public schools, including those in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement, and,

WHEREAS, The "Student First Scholarship" voucher program will have exactly the opposite effect by providing funding to private/parochial schools at the expense and to the detriment of public schools and their students, and,

WHEREAS, private/parochial schools accepting students with public tax vouchers would not be required to accept all students but would be permitted to retain their selective admission policies without enforcement of other laws applicable to public schools, and,

WHEREAS, the Sioux City Community School District Board of Directors believes that Iowa public schools provide a strong educational experience for all students. The overwhelming majority of students attend public schools in Iowa. Families choose to remain in Iowa due to quality public school systems, we denounce any attempt to divert public funds from chronically underfunded, highly accountable public schools to private institutions that lack accountability and are not subject to rigorous academic scrutiny, including participation in and reporting of student performance on the Iowa tests, and are not provided public transparency or financial oversight by publicly elected school boards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Sioux City Community School Board of Education, that this Board reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools which are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for ALL children and therefore opposes and respectfully requests the

Iowa House of Representatives reject SF 159, specifically the Students First Scholarships (vouchers), and expansion of Charter schools by any entity without the approval of the local school board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board opposes any funding programs, vouchers or otherwise, that have the effect of diverting public tax dollars from public schools to private/parochial schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Resolution to all Iowa state legislators, the Director of the Iowa Department of Education, the State Board of Education Members, and the Governor of the State of Iowa.


ADOPTED by ACTION of the BOARD this 3 day of February, 2021.

Ayes: Directors Alarcon-Flory, Albert Colling,  
Goodvin, Saint, Scarlett  
Absent: Director Greenwell

Nays: NONE

  
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Board President

2/3/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

2/3/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date