A Resolution in Support of Parental Rights

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[[1]](#footnote-1) Public Schools

A resolution to affirm the commitment of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board to the fundamental rights of parents to direct the education of their children.

WHEREAS, parents are in the best position to know their own child’s needs and circumstances, and therefore, should maintain authority over all decisions that could impact the health and well-being of their children; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental right of parents over the upbringing of their children has been unequivocally established in the United States;[[2]](#footnote-2) and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board recognizes T.C.A. § 36‑8‑101 et seq. which emphatically declares “The liberty of a parent to the care, custody, and control of the parent's child, including the right to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of the child, is a fundamental right”; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board believes that all academic success begins by embracing these fundamental parental rights in our educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that parents’ voices are respected and incorporated into the development of academic curricula to ensure that their children are receiving an appropriate education; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board believes that education must focus on academic subjects, and, without exception, should not include personal bias, personal political opinion, or indoctrination; and

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board believes that any parent has the right to see and evaluate all surveys, data collection, and psychological profiling before they are administered to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ students and that parents have the right to ‘opt out’ of any or all such testing, survey participation, and/or data collection; and[[3]](#footnote-3)

WHEREAS, as a governmental entity in the State of Tennessee, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board must adhere to Tennessee law, including T.C.A. § 36‑8‑101 et seq., in all of its practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board affirms our commitment to the fundamental rights of parents to direct the education of their children, including the right to play a central role in what it is their children are learning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School Board, Administration, and employees will uphold the traditional partnership between teachers, students, and parents by directly communicating with and involving parents in the education of their children.

1. Insert name of City/County School Board, here and all blanks following. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See, e.g., Meyer v. Nebraska, 262 U.S. 390 (1923); Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925); Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U.S. 205 (1972); Parham v. J.R., 442 U.S. 584 (1979); and Troxel v. Granville, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Note that this paragraph may need to be re-worded to account for state law regarding curriculum opt-out. Recommend talking to school district counsel to determine best wording. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)