

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION'S POSITION ON
SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the legal responsibility and mission of the Chicago Board of Education is to provide fully funded, equitable, and high-quality public education to all students; and

WHEREAS, public funds are intended to support public schools that serve **all** students, regardless of disability status, language background, immigration status, religion, income, gender identity, or academic need; and

WHEREAS, private schools accepting vouchers may lawfully set selective admissions criteria, impose tuition above voucher amounts, and deny enrollment based on disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or academic history; and

WHEREAS, school voucher programs divert already inadequate public resources away from public schools and redirect them to private institutions that are not held to the same transparency, accountability, civil rights, or governance standards as public schools; and

WHEREAS, research across multiple states has demonstrated that voucher programs frequently fail to improve student achievement and, in many cases, actually result in worse academic outcomes for participating students; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of public funds for private education weakens not only public schools but other vital public goods and services such as transportation, healthcare and efforts to preserve the environment and

WHEREAS, renewed efforts by the Trump administration at the federal level which see to expand and incentivize voucher or publicly funded scholarships for private schools would undermine Illinois' commitment to fully funded public schools; and

WHEREAS, public schools serve as democratic institutions that are accountable to elected school boards and the communities they serve, and voucher expansion weakens that democratic governance structure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chicago Board of Education formally urges the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor of Illinois to reject any legislation, administrative action, or federal incentive program that would create, expand, subsidize, or otherwise reintroduce school voucher programs in the State of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board calls upon the Illinois State Board of Education to prioritize policies that strengthen public education through fully funded Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) and mandated categoricals, investments in special education, bilingual education, mental health services, and safe, modern school facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of Illinois, the President of the Illinois Senate, the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, members of the Illinois General Assembly representing this district, and the Illinois State Board of Education.