

**Biloxi Public School District Board of Trustees
Resolution Opposing Universal School Choice Programs That Undermine Public
Education**

WHEREAS, the Biloxi Public School District Board of Trustees recognizes the fundamental role of strong, accessible, and adequately funded public schools in providing educational opportunities for all children; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi, through the work of the Mississippi Legislature, the Mississippi Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and local school boards, has established nationally recognized standards and measures for accountability in public education; and

WHEREAS, vouchers and education savings accounts (ESAs) eliminate public accountability by channeling tax dollars into private schools that are not subject to state-approved academic standards, public reporting, open meetings laws, or federal requirements for serving students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's public schools serve more than 91% of the state's students—including the most vulnerable—and provide a stable, equitable, and inclusive educational foundation that strengthens our state's workforce, economy, and communities; and

WHEREAS, "school choice" proposals—including public-to-public transfers and private school subsidies—divert critical public resources away from local districts to fund private or out-of-district schools that are not accountable to the taxpayers who fund them; and

WHEREAS, these programs create two publicly funded education systems governed by different rules—one accountable and inclusive, and the other exempt from oversight, resulting in inefficiencies, inequities, and weakened trust in public governance; and

WHEREAS, Biloxi taxpayers currently contribute nearly half of the cost to educate each student—yet school choice policies would shift additional burdens onto local taxpayers without corresponding revenue; and

WHEREAS, the state of Mississippi provides no funding for K–12 school facilities, and the citizens of Biloxi have raised local taxes to support class size reductions, world-class facilities, and exceptional academic and extracurricular programs; and

WHEREAS, allowing out-of-district students—whose families do not contribute to local property taxes—to attend Biloxi schools would strain capacity, increase class sizes, and force local taxpayers to cover significant funding gaps, including potential increases in millage to maintain services; and

WHEREAS, school choice policies undermine school district planning by creating uncertainty in enrollment, staffing, budgeting, and transportation logistics—compromising the district's ability to effectively serve students and retain staff; and

WHEREAS, communities like Biloxi depend on public schools to foster local identity, pride, and cohesion through shared academic and extracurricular experiences—a dynamic threatened by policies that treat students and programs as commodities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Biloxi Public School District Board of Trustees:

1. **Opposes** the implementation or expansion of universal school choice programs—whether public-to-private or public-to-public—that divert public funding or support from our community’s public schools;
2. **Urges** Biloxi’s legislative delegation, the Mississippi State Legislature, and the Governor to oppose such policies and instead strengthen public education by fully funding the Mississippi Student Funding Formula, supporting educators, and expanding services for public school students and families;
3. **Supports** efforts to ensure that any publicly funded education providers are held to the same transparency, fiscal, and academic accountability standards as public schools;
4. **Commits** to advocating for policies that recognize public education as a public good—open to all children, accountable to taxpayers, and essential to Mississippi’s long-term success.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Biloxi Public School District, this 18th day of November, 2025.