

**RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS THAT UNDERMINE PUBLIC EDUCATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson City Council affirms that strong, well-funded public schools are essential to ensuring equitable opportunities for every child in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi has established a framework of standards, accountability, and oversight for its public schools that has been nationally recognized and serves as a safeguard for both students and taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, voucher systems and other “school choice” schemes funnel public tax dollars into private institutions that operate outside these accountability structures, are not subject to open meetings or public record laws, and are not obligated to serve all students, including those with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, public schools in Mississippi educate the overwhelming majority of students, particularly those most vulnerable, and serve as the bedrock of stable neighborhoods and thriving communities; and

**WHEREAS**, proposals such as vouchers, education savings accounts, and tax-credit scholarships divert funding away from public schools and redirect it to private institutions that lack transparency, accountability, and oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, research has shown that voucher and ESA programs consistently fail to deliver academic gains and, in many cases, lead to worse educational outcomes compared to traditional public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, such programs often subsidize students who are already enrolled in private schools, rather than expanding access or improving opportunities for underserved populations; and

**WHEREAS**, these initiatives compel taxpayers to finance two parallel school systems—public and private—while only one is accountable to the citizens who fund it; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson Public School District is a vital driver of family stability, workforce development, and economic growth, providing a sense of identity and collective purpose for residents of the capital city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jackson, like other municipalities in Mississippi, must rely heavily on local taxpayers to fund classrooms and facilities, and the redirection of state resources toward private school tuition undermines the ability of our citizens to sustain excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, and career preparation programs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Jackson City Council:

Agenda Item No. 35  
September 23, 2025  
(Grizzell)

1. Opposes the creation or expansion of school choice initiatives, including vouchers, ESAs, and tax-credit programs—that reduce funding or support for local public schools.
2. Calls upon Jackson’s legislative delegation, the Mississippi State Legislature, and the Governor to stand against school choice measures and instead invest in strengthening public schools by fully funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP), supporting teachers and staff, and expanding student services.
3. Supports transparency and accountability in any program that receives taxpayer funds and rejects the use of public dollars to subsidize private education that lacks equivalent standards or protections.
4. Commits to championing policies that strengthen public education as a shared public good and an essential right for every child in Jackson and across the State of Mississippi.