



A Resolution

Northside Independent School District
San Antonio, Texas

Whereas, private school vouchers would cause a loss of billions of dollars to Texas public schools; and

Whereas, our limited tax funds are necessary to adequately fund and strengthen our public schools and help underachieving students to succeed; and

Whereas, Texas taxpayers do not want their property taxes raised to compensate for money lost to pay private school tuition for a few; and

Whereas, Texas already has a controversial \$1 billion school choice pilot program in the form of charter schools; and

Whereas, the voucher debate is not actually about choice or competition, but it is about special interest groups seeking to divert money from neighborhood schools to support chains of franchised for-profit preK-12th grade schools, private preK-12th grade schools, religious schools, home schools, or investor-owned on-line “virtual schools” offering classes over the Internet; and

Whereas, the Texas Legislature and President Bush are imposing stringent accountability mandates on public schools and denying promotion and diplomas to children based on TAKS performance, but private schools are not subject to these requirements; and

Whereas, private schools are not bound by the numerous state and federal laws and court decisions that apply to Texas public schools, such as laws related to open government, special education, transportation, teacher qualifications, curriculum and textbooks, class size limits, discipline, eligibility for UIL competition and no-pass/no-play, compensatory education, bilingual education, and myriad others; and

Whereas, Texas schoolchildren are not trapped in low-performing public schools because parents have choices for the public schools their children attend, including intra-district and inter-district transfers, magnet schools, charter schools, and open-enrollment schools.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northside Independent School District opposes any and all voucher proposals introduced in the Texas Legislature, either as pilots or full-scale programs.

Adopted this 8th day of March 2005

Robert Blount, Jr., President
Board of Trustees

George Lynn Britton, Jr., Secretary
Board of Trustees

John M. Folks, Superintendent