

**RESOLUTION TO EXPEDITE THE CLOSURE OF THE BORDERS AND TO INCREASE  
TITLE III FUNDS FOR ESL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, multiple counties in Tennessee are experiencing a substantial influx of students for whom English is not their native language; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these students are not fluent in reading or speaking the English language; and

**WHEREAS**, federal law mandates that we educate all children; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, Rutherford County has experienced a significant surge in its English Learner (EL) population, with an increase of over 140% in the past decade; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2023, Rutherford County Schools had 6,214 ESL students which has grown to 8,373 ESL students in the current school year; and

**WHEREAS**, this growth necessitated an additional 25 positions at the start of the school year for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program; and

**WHEREAS**, as demand continued to rise, Rutherford County Schools added 19 more growth positions for ESL, primarily funded through local and state revenue due to Title III funds only consisting of approximately \$1.3 Million Dollars

**WHEREAS**, the need for more positions has placed a considerable financial strain on our local revenue, primarily derived from our taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the pressure of increasing numbers of ESL students is creating exceptional financial pressures on school systems to provide the services which school systems are legally required to provide; and

**WHEREAS**, additional Title III funds are needed to meet the legal requirements imposed on school systems so that the costs of the same is not overwhelmingly borne by local property taxes, local funded taxes, and state funds;

**WHEREAS**, the increase in funding need to adequately serve ESL students is \$3,500 more per ESL student;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THIS THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF JANUARY, 2025, AS FOLLOWS:**

The Board of Education urges our State Legislators and Governor to advocate for the current administration to expedite the closure of our nation's borders and for the federal government to provide additional funding for Title III program to fund the services the federal government requires school systems to provide to ESL students.

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

---

By: Claire Maxwell, Chairman

**ATTESTED TO:**

---

Dawn Williams, Secretary