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OHIO PARENT AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Ohio Parents and Teachers Association (Ohio PTA) met in a regular board meeting on the 11th day of January, 2020, and approved the following Position Statement:

POSITION STATEMENT OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO EdCHOICE
SCHOLARSHIP (VOUCHER) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Ohio PTA has long opposed voucher programs and the expansion of voucher programs in State of Ohio. Beginning in 1980, Ohio PTA's membership adopted our initial Resolution against vouchers, entitled "Opposition to Tuition Tax Credits and Vouchers" whereby Ohio PTA opposed tuition tax credits and vouchers that benefit private students grades K-12. In 1993, as Ohio's legislature continued to expand voucher programs, Ohio PTA's membership voted to strengthen our opposition by adopting the Resolution entitled, "Ohio PTA Opposition to New Voucher Proposals for Public Moneys for Nonpublic Schools", whereby Ohio PTA opposed any system of vouchers, which would further erode the financial base of Ohio's public schools and strongly asserts Ohio PTA's support of public education; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has recently made amendments which greatly increase the number and availability of vouchers for students to attend private/parochial schools at public tax expense; and

WHEREAS, such vouchers could potentially be available to numerous families and students who have never attended public schools in Local School Districts across the state of Ohio, and for whom state funding has never been provided to these said Public Local School Districts; and

WHEREAS, many, if not all, Local School Districts' state funding would be unjustly decreased by the amount of the vouchers provided to such families and students who have not and would not attend public schools and others who transfer to private/parochial schools; and

WHEREAS, the estimated loss of revenue to Ohio's Public Schools would devastate many, if not all, Local School Districts' finances; and

WHEREAS, private/parochial schools accepting students with public tax vouchers would not be required to accept all students but would be permitted to retain their selective admission policies without enforcement of other laws applicable to public schools; and

WHEREAS, private/parochial school students are not subject to the testing standards required of public school students so that the actual performance of private/parochial schools subsidized with public tax dollars will not be known, relative to equivalent public school evaluation standards; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio PTA Board of Directors believes that the EdChoice voucher program as it currently exists presents serious constitutional issues regarding the separation of church and state and the funding of religious institutions with public tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has the constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools; and

WHEREAS, the EdChoice voucher program will have exactly the opposite effect by providing funding to private/parochial schools at the expense and to the detriment of public schools and their students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ohio PTA Board of Directors reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools which are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for ALL children and therefore opposes and respectfully requests the repeal of the ill-conceived EdChoice voucher program of the State of Ohio; and be it further

RESOLVED that this Board reaffirm its Resolutions to oppose any funding programs, vouchers or otherwise, that have the effect of diverting public tax dollars from public schools to private/parochial school; and be it further

RESOLVED that this Board opposes any cap on State funding in that it is discriminatory and unjust to schools and local tax paying citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to all Ohio state legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor of the State of Ohio immediately.


Ana Chapman

Ana Chapman
President, Ohio PTA