



*Canutillo Independent School District
Board of Trustees*

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING SCHOOL VOUCHERS AND
ADVOCATING INCREASED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires that the Texas Legislature “establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools;” and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of children in Texas attend public schools, making them the cornerstone of our state’s educational landscape; and

WHEREAS, there is a direct correlation between a strong Texas economy and a successful public school system, yet Texas currently ranks among the bottom 10 states in per-student funding; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Comptroller reported a surplus of \$24 billion during the 2024–2025 biennium and projects a revenue of \$195 billion for the 2026–2027 biennium; and

WHEREAS, despite a healthy state economy, the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Legislature have not directed these resources toward adequately increasing funding for public education; and

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott has caused statewide fiscal crises among school districts by withholding essential state funding as punishment for the legislature’s failure to pass the voucher law he spearheaded; and

WHEREAS, public school districts are accountable to taxpayers and parents, ensuring transparency and responsiveness in the use of public funds; and

WHEREAS, public school districts are the only educational institutions required to accept all children regardless of need or ability to pay, thereby serving as an essential equalizer in our communities; and

WHEREAS, coordinated private-interest groups from Texas and around the country are investing heavily in campaigns designed to weaken support for public education, discredit educators, and promote the passage of voucher legislation that would divert essential resources away from our public schools; and

WHEREAS, Canutillo ISD Board of Trustees has approved a previous Resolution opposing any transfer of public funds using vouchers, education savings accounts or corporate tax credits to private schools or individuals, including the expansion of virtual instruction by corporation; and

WHEREAS, while the El Paso delegation in Austin is a staunch supporter of public education, the Legislature at large has exponentially increased state mandates on public schools to the point of impeding their ability to efficiently and effectively provide educational experiences tailored to local and state needs; and

WHEREAS, school districts have been forced to operate under the same funding formula and revenue structure despite inflation, COVID-related complications, a statewide drop in enrollment, and an increase in unfunded state mandates; and

WHEREAS, Canutillo ISD is slated to become Recapture district that will be subject to have a portion of its revenue withheld as a result of a rising property tax base and decreasing Average Daily Attendance; and

WHEREAS, Recapture would further harm the already damaged revenue structure in the District; and

WHEREAS, basing school funding solely on average daily attendance is not the most accurate method of calculating the true cost of educating our children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District hereby continues to oppose any state-funded school voucher programs or similar initiatives that divert public resources to private entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board calls upon the Texas Legislature and the Texas Education Agency to increase the basic allotment for public schools to reflect the more than 20% inflation rate since 2019, and to require future automatic adjustments to the basic allotment using the Consumer Price Index; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board urges all Texas citizens, educators, and community stakeholders to support measures that strengthen and fully fund our public education system, thereby safeguarding the future of our children and the prosperity of our state.

Adopted this 4th day of March of 2025 by the Board of Trustees of the Canutillo Independent School District.

Armando Rodriguez, President

Lilia Maldonado, Vice President

Cindy Zuñiga, Secretary

Breanne Barnes, Trustee

Lucia Borrego, Trustee

Sergio Martinez, Trustee

Carolina Ortega, Trustee