



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function Board of Education Meeting: 04/01/2025

Item Title: Resolution #027/2024-2025 X Action
Vouchers Information
Discussion

BACKGROUND:

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." Texas public school districts accept every student. Education savings accounts and other voucher schemes give private schools, not parents, the right to choose. Texas public schools adhere to state-mandated academic and financial accountability standards. School choice already exists in the State of Texas via public school districts, charter schools, inter- and intra-district transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools. Education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes eliminate public accountability of schools and tax dollars. A taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of state funds available for all schools, harming many rural Texas communities where families have few, if any, private school options; and Texas parents who accept a voucher would lose out on a long list of important parental rights outlined in Texas state education code and in federal law, especially protections for students receiving special education services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Districts will lose State Funding

RECOMMENDATION:

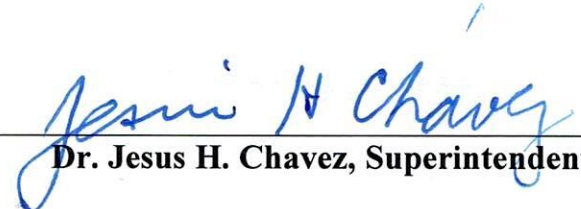
Recommend approval of Brownsville Independent School District Resolution #027/2024-2025 of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent opposing Texas School Vouchers, Education Savings Accounts, Taxpayer Savings Grants, and other mechanisms that reduce Public Education Funding.

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Submitted by: Superintendent

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Recommended by: Superintendent

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Approved by: Superintendent


Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

RESOLUTION #027/2024-2025
**OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF BROWNSVILLE
ISD REGARDING VOUCHERS, EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, TAXPAYER
SAVINGS GRANTS, AND OTHER MECHANISMS THAT REDUCE PUBLIC
EDUCATION FUNDING**

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;"

WHEREAS, Texas public school districts accept every student;

WHEREAS, education savings accounts and other voucher schemes give private schools, not parents, the right to choose;

WHEREAS, Texas public schools adhere to state-mandated academic and financial accountability standards;

WHEREAS, private schools are not required to meet the same academic standards as public schools, and they do not report test results, graduation rates, and other performance measures to the public;

WHEREAS, school choice already exists in the State of Texas via public school districts, charter schools, inter- and intra-district transfers, home schools, virtual schools, and private schools;

WHEREAS, education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes eliminate public accountability of schools and tax dollars;

WHEREAS, using tax dollars to pay for tuition at private and religious schools would grow into a costly entitlement program;

WHEREAS, a taxpayer-funded voucher program would reduce the amount of state funds available for all schools, harming many rural Texas communities where families have few, if any, private school options; and

WHEREAS, Texas parents who accept a voucher would lose out on a long list of important parental rights outlined in Texas state education code and in federal law, especially protections for students receiving special education services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brownsville ISD Board of Trustees and the Superintendent calls on the Texas Legislature to reject any diversion of public dollars to private entities in the form of education savings accounts and similar voucher schemes.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 1st day of April 2025.

Daniella Lopez Valdez
President, Board of Trustees

Minerva Peña
Secretary, Board of Trustees