

**Johnson City Board of Education Special Meeting**  
**January 21, 2025 8:30 AM**  
Central Office

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PURPOSE OF MEETING**

1.A. Resolution, Opposing the Education Freedom Act

**2. ADJOURNMENT**



# JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS

Post Office Box 1517, Johnson City, TN 37605 www.jcschools.org (423) 434-5200 Fax: (423) 218-4968  
Dr. Steve Barnett, Superintendent of Schools

## A RESOLUTION OF THE JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION OPPOSING THE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

**WHEREAS**, Article XI, Section 12 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee requires the General Assembly "shall provide for the maintenance, support, and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Johnson City Board of Education works diligently with our city leaders, administrators, staff, and parents to ensure all students in our community have equitable access to educational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnson City Schools educates and serves every eligible student in our community who wishes to enroll; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnson City Schools has a more than 100 year history of providing a wide array of excellent academic, athletic, social, and arts programs through effective and strategic stewardship of public funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Johnson City Board of Education is committed to ensuring local control over our schools through transparency and accountability, reflecting the values and needs of the Johnson City community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Johnson City Board of Education believes all educational institutions, both private and public, receiving public funds should have the same level of academic and financial transparency and accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, private educational institutions do not face the same state-approved academic standards, transparency requirements, accountability methods, and performance measures as public educational institutions, nor are they required to accept all students and offer needed specialized programs; and

**WHEREAS**, diverting critically needed public funds to private educational institutions through vouchers/Education Savings Accounts threaten Johnson City Schools' ability to maintain its exemplary quality of programs and services and we believe vouchers would also be in direct conflict to our Mission, which is to provide the highest quality public education to all students in a caring, safe, and inclusive environment;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Johnson City Board of Education unanimously opposes the "Education Freedom Act" and strongly urges the Tennessee General Assembly to reject such legislation and/or any other similar voucher or Education Savings Account legislation that would divert public dollars away from public schools.



### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jonathan Kinnick, Chair      Paula Treece, Vice Chair      Rick Smith, Secretary  
Dr. Ginger Carter      Thomas Hager, Jr      Kathy Hall      Celia Martin

The mission of the Johnson City Schools is to enable all students to achieve excellence.

