



Radnor Township School District

135 S. Wayne Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087-4117
610.688.8100
www.rtsd.org

Invest in Excellence

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 1800-TUITION VOUCHER PROGRAM BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, House Bill 1800 provides that a Receiver in a district to which the legislation applies must establish a tuition grant program to provide for the education of students who live within the boundaries of the school district and who either attend or will attend a nonpublic school or a participating public school in a school district; and

WHEREAS, this proposed school voucher program is aimed at assisting the “failing” Harrisburg School District but could set a statewide precedent that will detract from public education; and

WHEREAS, the school voucher program will not hold private institutions to the accountability standards public schools face and explicitly prohibits the commonwealth, the district, and the receiver from imposing additional accountability requirements on non-public schools not already authorized by law, thus making student success rates through the voucher program unmeasurable; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1800 does not prohibit nonpublic schools from denying admission to a student, including based on special needs, thus potentially resulting in unequal opportunity and inequity for students amongst diverse populations; and

WHEREAS, school districts facing financial instability will further be burdened by the voucher program by losing funding to families of a higher economic status that would have sent their students to private or religious schools regardless of the voucher program; and

WHEREAS, such funding to religious schools presents a query as to the legality of public tax dollars funding a religious institution, potentially creating a lengthy legal argument that subsequently draws attention away from the pressing issues facing public education; and

WHEREAS, as it stands, Pennsylvania ranks 47th in the nation in regard to state funding for public education and House Bill 1800 will further deplete the funds available to educate public school students by redirecting taxpayer dollars to unaccountable nonpublic schools; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Radnor Township School District School Board urges members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to oppose House Bill 1800 in an effort to promote a fair and equal education for all students in this Commonwealth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Radnor Township School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this twenty-eighth day of April, 2020.



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Susan Stern
School Board President

Kenneth E. Batchelor
Superintendent