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May 2, 2026

Dear Director of the Bettendorf School Board,

On behalf of Public School Strong and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (CCI), we are submitting the enclosed resolution urging the Governor of Iowa and State Legislature to fully fund public schools by an annual 5% increase of State Supplemental Aid (adjusted for inflation), to maintain an income cap for ESAs, to phase out the ESA voucher program over the next 5 years, and to use public funds for public schools only.

We respectfully request that discussion of this resolution be added to the school board agenda on May 14th, 2026. We encourage you to discuss, support, and vote to **pass** this resolution.

At Iowa CCI, we believe that every child – no matter their zip code, identity, background, race, gender, or ability – has a right to a high-quality public education. That means fully funding all our public schools, urban and rural alike.

We know how great our public schools were, are, and could be, and how critical they are to our community's future generations. This is why we firmly believe we must use our public funds for public schools.

Thank you for serving on the school board. Please know you have the community's support to raise your voices and pass this resolution!

Sincerely, Charles Collins

Public School Strong leader and Iowa CCI member

**A SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION URGING THE IOWA GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE
TO FULLY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PHASE OUT THE EDUCATION SAVINGS
ACCOUNTS (ESAs)**

WHEREAS, 91% of Iowa students are enrolled in public schools; and

WHEREAS, public schools are universally accessible and do not discriminate; and

WHEREAS, public schools are accountable to local communities through nonpartisan, democratically-elected school boards; and

WHEREAS, the state of Iowa has underfunded public schools for decades averaging just a 2.0% annual increase of State Supplemental Aid (SSA) since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Iowa is experiencing one of the worst teacher shortages in the country¹; and

WHEREAS, private schools receiving ESAs are not held to the same accountability, transparency, and legal standards as public schools; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's ESAs defund our public schools and have cost Iowa taxpayers \$129 million in 2023-24, \$218 million in 2024-2025, and is estimated to cost \$315 million in 2025-26 with all income eligibility caps removed; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of private schools in Iowa are religious, and publicly funding them blurs the line between separation of church and state; and

WHEREAS, independent studies in Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio, and Washington DC show that student performance and achievement go down as private school voucher programs expand²; and

WHEREAS, all of us – including future generations – benefit from strong public schools because they've helped make our country far more equal, educated, and democratic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ BOARD OF EDUCATION:

1. The _____ Board of Education does hereby urge the Governor of Iowa and the State Legislature to fully fund public schools by a minimum annual 5% increase of State Supplemental Aid rate (adjusted for inflation); and
2. The _____ Board of Education does hereby petition the Governor of Iowa and the State Legislature to keep the income cap in place for Education Savings Accounts, phase the program out over the next 5 years, and use public funds for public schools only.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON _____ (date)

¹ Data compiled by the National Conference of State Legislatures

² *How School Voucher Programs Hurt Students* (2023), Professor Josh Cowen
<https://time.com/6272666/school-voucher-programs-hurt-students/>