

#EducationForAll School Board Resolution Toolkit

[Attend a Public School Strong TN training to get your t-shirt and connected with a team.](#)

[Click here to complete the resolution interest form so we can support your efforts!](#)

Click here for an overview of [HB 793/SB 836](#).

What is a resolution? Why does it matter that your school board passes one?

A resolution is a statement of the will or opinion of an elected body. Because this legislation is **permissive**, that means that your school board has the option to opt in or opt out of discriminating against undocumented families in your district. By passing a resolution stating that they will not participate in this law, your district will make a public commitment to serving every child in their district. This both protects immigrant families and sends a clear message to the state that our communities do not support discrimination.

A resolution is NOT a school board policy, but it is a helpful tool to organize around an issue, as well as to get the opinions of the Board in writing to encourage binding policy in the future.

Four school districts have already passed resolutions opposing HB793. Use these as templates to show and adapt for your school board.

We encourage you to present and adapt this language for your school district. Having similar language across the state sends a bold message that we as Tennesseans are unified in our commitment of inclusive, fully-funded schools where EVERY child can thrive.

- [Franklin County Schools](#)
- [Hamilton County Schools](#)
- [Murfreesboro City Schools](#)
- [Memphis-Shelby County Schools](#)

How do I build community support to move my school board to pass a resolution?

Once you have made a local version of your resolution (use template above), you can create community support two ways:

- **Email Action Link:** Get as many folks as you can to **use our email action link (CONTACT LIV@SOCM.ORG TO CREATE)** to email your school board members directly. Set a goal for email submissions, create a plan to get them, and contact liv@socm.org for final numbers of how many people sent emails from your county.

- [Here is a template you can use to contact your board members!](#)

How do I make the ask to my Board members?

- **Ahead of time, meet with the Board member who you think could sponsor the resolution or bring it forward.** You can email them, set up a meeting or phone call, and ask them to bring forward the resolution at an upcoming meeting. If meeting one-on-one makes you nervous, bring 1-2 team members with you!
- **Build community support for your resolution through an email drive, and recruit them to the Board meeting.**
- **Go to your district website and look up the policies for public comment.** Some may ask you to only speak on agenda items or to sign up ahead of time. There are often short time limits you'll need to feel prepared for.
- **Write your address to the Board ahead of time and practice.** You can use the talking points below to help you craft your statement, and you can use this resource to help you craft a powerful public comment.
 - [Click here for a narrative guide from We Make the Future.](#)
 - **The most powerful part of your comment is YOUR story.** Painting the picture of why this issue matters to you personally and to your district locally matters. [Use this resource to help you write your public school strong story.](#)
 - Ground in a vision of how thriving public schools can benefit you, your family, and everyone in your community.
- **Bring copies of the example resolution with you to give to Board members.**
- **Bring a printout of your petition with the signatures you've gathered OR # of people who've completed the email action link.**
- **Have friends join you at the meeting.** Wearing your PSS shirts together, have some neighbors and friends there with you in solidarity. (And encourage them to maybe make a comment, too!)
- **Follow the arc of a strong public comment.**
 - State your personal connection.
 - Talk about your issue - connect your personal story to the issue of vouchers + how this could harm your local schools/community.
 - Call to action - ask your school board to pass a resolution opposing this voucher scam.
- **Follow up with school board members after the meeting is over to gauge their support,** and continue to follow up if further encouragement is needed.

If you need support, reach out to us! - liv@socm.org

If you are successful in moving your city council or county commission to pass a resolution, email us and let us know so we can share your success statewide!