

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ESA VOUCHER PROGRAMS (SB 2)
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, APRIL 10, 2018**

WHEREAS, Boyertown Area School District and many other Pennsylvania public school districts provide countless academic and extracurricular opportunities for learning and growth of all students, preparing them for higher education and careers; with greater high school graduation rates and larger percentages of students moving on to higher education than most schools across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Education Savings Account (ESA) voucher programs such as those under Senate Bill 2 divert state funds, on a per-student basis, from a school district's basic education subsidy to be sent to less accountable schools and institutions; and

WHEREAS, schools targeted under Senate Bill 2 are already in districts that face severe funding challenges; and

WHEREAS, the voucher program in Senate Bill 2 benefits families regardless of income or need, including students already enrolled in private schools or never having attended a targeted public school; and

WHEREAS, Boyertown Area School District and all Pennsylvania public schools ensure that each student with a disability receives a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in compliance with federal and state law and regulations, with students and their families having the benefits of a system of procedural safeguards; and

WHEREAS, public school districts accept, educate and protect the rights of all children who come to their doors, as opposed to those institutions that can reject applicants based on any number of factors and are not required to uphold the rights of students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, public schools are held to strict accountability standards that measure student achievement and academic progress, unlike schools which are not required to use the same standardized assessments and reporting requirements, making comparison and evaluation of academic progress unachievable.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Boyertown Area School District opposes Senate Bill 2 and any other legislation or any effort by the General Assembly to implement tuition vouchers or any other program that would have the effect of a tuition voucher program, and conveys the importance of supporting and improving the quality of all public schools in the Commonwealth.

Adopted by the Boyertown Area School District Board of Directors on April 10, 2018.

ATTESTED BY:

For the School District:



Donna Usavage,
School Board President



Rebecca Clouser,
School Board Secretary