

January 28, 1999

Ms. Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 99-08 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS AND TUITION TAX BREAKS**

The primary purpose of public education is to guarantee that every child has access to a free education. To this end, public schools are funded by tax dollars, ensuring that students not be denied admission on the basis of academic performance, ability to pay, race, religion, gender, disability, knowledge of English or other special need.

On a broader scale, public education defines and advances a nation committed to the basic principles of equity, fairness, and opportunity for all. Public education not only ensures that today's school children will be prepared for the workplace but also that common values and principles of citizenship needed to unify the nation will be taught to all.

Vouchers will siphon-off much needed financial resources. Vouchers will not improve public education but rather will undermine the public schools' capacity to compete and improve. Thus, it is recommended that we oppose private school vouchers and tuition tax breaks.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. BETSY H. KAPLAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 99-08, opposing private school vouchers and tuition tax breaks.

BHK:ca

**RESOLUTION NO. 99-08 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
OPPOSING PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS AND TUITION TAX BREAKS**

**WHEREAS**, the public schools educate every child, regardless of race, ability, religion, special needs, and economic circumstance; and

**WHEREAS**, the public schools are directly accountable to the residents of this community; and

**WHEREAS**, public education is about promoting a democracy, and common values and principles of citizenship; and

**WHEREAS**, plans to create taxpayer-funded vouchers for private and parochial school tuition and fees drain scarce resources from public school classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, plans to allow tax breaks and dedicated IRAs for private and parochial school tuition or expenses ultimately diminish revenue available for public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools educate 90% of the students in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, research regarding the effects of voucher plans shows insignificant gains in academic achievement for voucher students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 99-08 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, opposing Private School Vouchers and Tuition Tax Breaks.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 1999

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary