

Resolution: Uplifting Public Education Through Funding, Accountability, and Respect for Informed Parental Choice

WHEREAS, Florida's 2.8 million public school students depend on strong, fully funded schools that remain the backbone of our democracy and the heart of every community;

WHEREAS, taxpayer dollars are increasingly diverted to voucher and charter operators held to different standards than school districts, weakening traditional school district-managed public schools, without exceptions and leaving families without transparency the comprehensive information necessary to making informed choices;;

WHEREAS, true respect for parents means providing families with factual, transparent information about student academic performance, sources and use of funding, student support resources, family responsibilities, and school governance protocols so that their choices are real choices — not decisions shaped by political spin or corporate marketing;

WHEREAS, the Florida Democratic Party respects every parent's right to choose the best education for their child — but affirms that such choice must not come at taxpayer expense without full transparency and accountability;

WHEREAS, any school receiving taxpayer dollars must be held to the same high standards for equity, transparency, and student outcomes as traditional school district-managed public schools, without exceptions;

WHEREAS, chronic underfunding, combined with policies that siphon dollars away from public education, threaten Florida's future workforce, economy, and democracy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Democratic Party commits to making public education a central priority by:

- Demanding funding levels that meet the real costs of educating every child, including inflation, cost-of-living adjustments, and resources for student well-being.
- Ensuring informed parental choice by requiring clear, fact-based information for families on school quality, accountability, and the impact of funding policies that is equally applicable to all school governance models.
- Opposing policies that siphon public dollars into unregulated private operators, weakening the schools that serve the vast majority of Florida's families.
- Championing legislation that protects the integrity of public education, guarantees equity for all students, and recognizes schools as essential civic anchors — serving as community centers, emergency shelters, and polling places.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Florida Democratic Party will stand unwavering for public schools as the foundation of opportunity, fairness, and democracy. Respect parents, protect taxpayers, and uplift public schools.