

SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS
Resolution No. 2016/17-051

OPPOSITION TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 610
(CHOICES IN EDUCATION ACT OF 2017 AND NO HUNGRY KIDS ACT)

Whereas, the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education is committed to the provision of a quality public school education for all its students.

Whereas, United States House Representative Steve King (R-IA-4) introduced H.R. 610, entitled the "Choices in Education Act of 2017" and "No Hungry Kids Act," to Congress on January 23, 2017.

Whereas, the "Choices in Education Act of 2017" proposes to repeal the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in its entirety and severely limits the authority of the U.S. Department of Education ("DOE") by only allowing the DOE issue block grants to states for purposes of funding an education voucher program; if such block grants are accepted by a state, the funds provided to each local educational agency will be directed to: (1) distribute a portion of such funds to parents who elect to enroll their child in a private school or to home-school their child, and (2) do so in a manner that ensures that such payments will be used for appropriate educational expenses.

Whereas, the Board of Education for the Santa Rosa City Schools believes that no public taxpayer money should be allocated for school vouchers that allow students attend private school.

Whereas, multiple studies of private school voucher programs implemented in other regions found that students who utilize vouchers do not perform better than students attending public schools.

Whereas, vouchers move taxpayer dollars into private schools that can be operated by for-profit organizations that are not bound by state instructional requirements and graduation standards; are not subject to the State's accountability review; are not governed by locally elected school board members held accountable to the public; are not required to adhere to open meetings or public records laws; do not have to employ highly qualified, certified, or licensed teachers; do not have provide students with the same due process protections; and are allowed to discriminate against students based on protected status, academic achievement, ability, legal status, and disciplinary history, among others.

Whereas, the "No Hungry Kids Act" repeals specified rules that require certain nutritional standards for national school meal programs, specifically those that require schools to increase the amount of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat or fat free milk in school meals; reduce the levels of sodium, saturated fat, and trans-fat in school meals; and meet children's nutritional needs within their caloric requirements.

Whereas, the Santa Rosa City Schools believe that school lunches should have to meet minimum nutritional requirements to meet the needs of its students and will continue to do so without regard to the rescission of federal requirements; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, that the Santa Rosa City Schools' Board of Education hereby, based on this record, opposes H.R. 610 and calls upon the United States Congress, in particular its federal elected officials Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Sen. Kamala Harris, and Rep. Mike Thompson, to stand firm by opposing this legislation.

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Education of the Santa Rosa City Schools on April 12, 2017.

Jenni Klose, President