

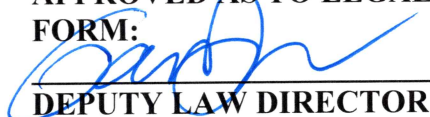
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS A MODEL DISTRICT FOR EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

RESOLUTION: 23-004

**PREPARED BY:
SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE
BETSY HENDERSON, DISTRICT 6**

**APPROVED AS TO LEGAL
FORM:**


DEPUTY LAW DIRECTOR

BOARD APPROVED: September 7, 2023

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education thanks the Knox County Schools' Special Education Task Force for its work and recommendations delivered to the board on August 7, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education thanks the parents and caregivers who participated in Knox County Schools' Student Success family focus groups between May 1 and May 12, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education thanks the parents, caregivers, and educators who submitted responses to the Knox County Schools' Student Success family surveys and educator input portal in March and April of 2023.

WHEREAS, the Knox County Board of Education affirms that an excellent education for every Knox County student is imperative, especially for the most vulnerable.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, the Knox County Board of Education directs the Superintendent to work to make Knox County Schools a model district for excellence in special education for every student.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent shall bring the Board of Education a plan based on the recommendations from the Special Education Task Force, Student Success family focus groups, Student Success family surveys, and the Student Success educator input portal including but not limited to the following actions:

1. Establish clear guidelines for communication and decision-making for all staff related to special education, including Central Office and school administration. Expectations shall emphasize a "student-first" mindset and increase the decision-making capacity of those closest to the student.

2. Identify opportunities to make the “success for every student” priority an accessible outcome for every special education student. Specific attention should be given to equipping administrators, teachers, and support staff with the development opportunities, resources, and material necessary to achieving this goal.
3. Change the perspective of Knox County Schools as it relates to legal matters in special education in Tennessee to focus on:
 - a. employing best practices in special education;
 - b. remaining apprised of the legal landscape in special education to inform decision-making and better serve special education students and their parents or guardians;
 - c. ensuring KCS creates and maintains a student-focused perspective when considering legal strategies; and
 - d. a communication plan related to legal matters for the Board of Education and senior staff.
4. The Superintendent will establish an ongoing council composed of outside experts, parents, and educators to provide input and inform continuous improvement efforts in special education. Membership on the 2023-24 council should be offered to the parents and educators who served on the Special Education Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Knox County Schools shall bring any policy changes needed to implement the above-listed actions to the Board of Education no later than November of 2023.



Chair, Knox County Board of Education

Date: September 7, 2023