

## RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education is responsible for providing a local system of public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of school superintendents was the cornerstone of the Education Improvement Act of 1992, patterning school governance after the business model, with elected school boards responsible for setting policy and board-appointed chief executive officers in charge of day-to-day administration of schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Education Improvement Act and the appointment of superintendents have provided greater flexibility at the local level to operate schools and made school systems more accountable for results; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of superintendents provides a broader pool of qualified candidates and removes residency limitations, allowing the selection to be based solely on professional qualifications and leadership skills rather than the political savvy of only those individuals living in a particular district and willing to run for office; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointed superintendent is accountable to the board of education and may be replaced for failure to achieve the standards and goals established by the local board and the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of the superintendent ensures cooperation and a common vision with the board of education to improve student achievement and overall school performance; and

**WHEREAS**, history in Tennessee has shown that most elected superintendents are voted out of office after one term – just around the time school systems, students and the community can begin to benefit from their increased knowledge and experience; and

**WHEREAS**, only three states in the entire country (Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi) continue to participate in the outdated practice of electing school superintendents, electing less than one percent of the nearly 15,000 superintendents in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee General Assembly will undoubtedly continue to face pressure to revert to elected superintendents, particularly from some local funding bodies reluctant to increase education funding and improve school system budgets and frustrated with the lead advocacy roles of appointed superintendents;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE** \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education encourages the Tennessee General Assembly to place the interest of students above any other by recognizing the value of appointed superintendents and rejecting any attempt to revert to superintendent elections.