A RESOLUTION OF THE
FRANKLIN SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPPOSING PASSAGE OF HB 2293 / SB 2525, WHICH GRANTS LOCAL FUNDING BODIES LINE ITEM BUDGET AUTHORITY OVER LOBBYING EXPENSES FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Franklin Special School District Board of Education ("Board") is the local governmental body responsible for providing a public education to students and families within the boundaries of the Franklin Special School District; and

WHEREAS, the lack of line item budget authority over educational expenditures is a bedrock principle of law in Tennessee which serves educational systems well, and helps ensure that educational funding is used for its highest and best purpose; and

WHEREAS, the courts in Tennessee have recognized and upheld this delicate balance between the role of a local board of education and its funding body for nearly a century; and

WHEREAS, HB 2293 / SB 2525 seeks to disrupt the relationship between the two local government entities by granting the funding body line item authority over specific portions of the board of education budget, specifically budget lines for lobbying expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the use of lobbyists is a common practice among many local government bodies, including local boards of education, cities, counties, and their respective member organizations; and

WHEREAS, the legislature files and considers hundreds of education bills each year, many of which have a detrimental impact on Franklin Special School District, its parents, and its students; and

WHEREAS, lobbyists serve a vital function in light of the growing activity of the legislature in the educational area by obtaining information about pending education bills and making sure the voices of the parents and students that support Franklin Special School District and all public school districts are heard; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that it is appropriate and correct that the balance between the roles of funding bodies and the local boards of education be upheld for the good of the students, parents, and tax-paying citizens, and that local boards of education continue to have access to representation at the legislature by a lobbyist if they choose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Franklin Special School District Board of Education opposes the passage of HB 2293 / SB 2525, which provides a local funding body line item budget authority over lobbying expenditure lines in a local board of education's budget.

Votes: 6 In Favor 0 Against
0 Abstain

The Board authorizes its Chair to sign below, this 10th day of March, 2014.

Sherry Badger 3/10/14

Sherry Badger, Chair **Date**