

RESOLUTION 2019-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING
FLORIDA CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION AMENDMENT 8**

WHEREAS, The School Board of Duval County, Florida (the “School Board”), consisting of seven elected Florida Constitutional Officers, is the governing body for the School District of Duval County, Florida (the “district”);

WHEREAS, The district is the twentieth largest school district in the nation and the sixth largest school district in Florida;

WHEREAS, The nurturing educational environment for all children is the highest priority of the School Board;

WHEREAS, The Florida Constitution Revision Commission has proposed an amendment to the Florida Constitution, Amendment 8, that will appear on the November 2018 General Election Ballot;

WHEREAS, Amendment 8 appears to authorize an entity other than the elected school board to establish a traditional public school, a charter school, a school of hope, and/or other public school choice options;

WHEREAS, Our nation was founded on the principle of eliminating taxation without representation; the local school board serves as the taxpayer’s representative of local education funding and transferring the authority to establish a public school to an individual or entity that is not elected denies taxpayers, families, and communities any means to hold the authorizing entity fiscally and programmatically accountable;

WHEREAS, Transferring the authority to establish a public school to an entity other than the school district would permit and encourage the creation of a parallel system of free public schools which threatens the state’s ability to comply with the constitutional mandate for a uniform system of free public schools;

WHEREAS, Amendment 8 would permit and encourage a process to establish a public school without regard to the need for, desire for, or appropriateness of, the new school which threatens the state’s ability to comply with the constitutional mandate for an efficient system of free public schools;

WHEREAS, An additional public school authorizing entity is neither necessary nor desirable because Florida is a national leader in public and private school choice options, including more than 3,500 traditional public schools, more than 650 charter schools, 6 existing private school scholarship programs, and a state - wide policy of open enrollment;

WHEREAS, Amendment 8 does not clearly and fully explain the possible implications of authorizing an alternate entity to establish public schools;

WHEREAS, The promotion and instruction in civic literacy is already well established in Florida Statutes, incorporated into the Florida Standards, and measured by Florida’s statewide, standardized assessment system;

WHEREAS, Civic literacy is well entrenched and promoted in Florida through statutes and Florida Department of Education requirements and it is not necessary to further enshrine civic literacy in the state constitution;

WHEREAS, Duval County voters approved term limits for constitutional officers in 1992, and the School Board respects the local decision to limit terms for constitutional officers and believe that limiting the term of constitutional offices rests with local voters; and

WHEREAS, Amendments to the Florida Constitution should be necessary, fair, desirable, and clearly understandable.

BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board adopts the following resolutions regarding Amendment 8:

1. The School Board opposes Amendment 8 because is not clearly understandable and it is not necessary.
2. The School Board shall post this resolution with the minutes of the August 7, 2018 School Board meeting, and shall deliver a copy of this resolution to the following:
 - a. All Florida School Board Chairpersons
 - b. The Honorable Lenny Curry, City of Jacksonville Mayor
 - c. City of Jacksonville City Council Members
 - d. Florida School Board Association
 - e. Florida Association of School Superintendents

ADOPTED, on August 7, 2018, in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, by the School Board of Duval County, Florida

ATTEST:

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

By: _____
Dr. Diana Greene,
Superintendent of Schools
and Ex-Officio Secretary
to the Board

By: _____
Paula D. Wright, Chairman