

VERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT #818

LOCAL CONTROL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, locally elected school boards are positioned best to represent their students, staff, parents and community members and address local needs and challenges; and

WHEREAS, each school district faces unique needs which depend on a variety of factors including demographics, geography and district size; and

WHEREAS, just like legislative leaders, locally elected school boards are held accountable through Minnesota's elections process; and

WHEREAS, school board policies at the local level are enacted only after a comprehensive, legal and open process; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota's Open Meeting Law, school board business generally occurs in meetings that are scheduled, publicized and accessible to members of the public; and

WHEREAS, preservation of local control in Minnesota has yielded statewide benefits, such as Minnesota scoring higher on average than our national peers on the ACT college entrance exam in 2019; and

WHEREAS, one-size-fits-all mandates stifle innovation and creativity and consume staff time and resources; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 bills to restrict local decision-making were introduced in the 2019-20 biennium thus far; and

WHEREAS, excellence in student achievement for all Minnesota students guides the work of the school board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 818, Verndale School District supports local decision-making authority and opposes legislation that restricts the ability for locally elected school boards to respond to the needs of their districts, students and communities.

ADOPTED by the Verndale School Board this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Passed on a vote of _____ ayes; _____ nays