

# RESOLUTION OF THE ROANE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



**WHEREAS** the Roane County Board of Education (hereafter, “the Board”) recognizes its primary responsibility is to ensure that all students in Roane County have access to a free, appropriate, high-quality, public education, regardless of the present or any possible future circumstances, and

**WHEREAS** the Board further recognizes the important role of its teachers and other staff to support the academic, social, and emotional development of its students; and

**WHEREAS** the Board has experienced a critical need and shortage of teachers in particular areas of study, namely mathematics, the sciences, and special education, and has been unable to fill this need with local, regional, or national recruiting efforts; and

**WHEREAS** the Board found great success in addressing this need through use of the J-1 Cultural Exchange Visitor Program and the highly qualified, experienced teachers made available through it, and which as an added benefit brought diverse voices and experiences to the students of Roane County; and

**WHEREAS** The President of the United States’ Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak issued on June 22, 2020, has placed continued use of this Program in doubt for the 2020-21 school year, though the need for highly qualified, experienced teachers persists.

**THEREFORE, SO BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this Twenty-Third day of July, Two-thousand Twenty, the Roane County Board of Education does express its support for the J-1 Cultural Exchange Visitor Program and adopts this resolution to implore those whose position grants them the ability and influence to encourage the proper authorities to provide an exemption to the J-1 Cultural Exchange Visitor Program to do so that Roane County students may continue to expect highly qualified, experienced teachers in their classrooms.

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Jeffery Mace, President

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Eileen Richardson, Member

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Gregory Boggs, Vice President

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Daris Harper, Member

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James Minney, Member

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Richard D. Duncan, Ph.D., Superintendent