

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 236

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

STUDENTS: Requests public school governing authorities to include in eighth grade students' Individual Graduation Plans, a plan for completing graduation requirements prior to the end of twelfth grade

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the governing authority of each public middle school and high school  
3 to include in students' required Individual Graduation Plans a plan for how the  
4 student can complete high school graduation requirements prior to the end of the  
5 twelfth grade.

6 WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of Louisiana's  
7 public educational system to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages  
8 of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order  
9 that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the constitution places with the legislature the responsibility to provide  
12 for the education of the people of the state and to establish and maintain a public educational  
13 system; and

14 WHEREAS, the constitution charges the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
15 Education with supervising and controlling the public elementary and secondary schools as  
16 provided by law; and

17 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:7(30), as enacted in 2010, requires the State Board of  
18 Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a policy to allow students to accelerate their  
19 academic progress, complete all high school graduation requirements, and receive a high  
20 school diploma in less than four years; and

1           WHEREAS, this law further requires that such policy adopted by the state board  
2 shall encourage and support students who seek early graduation from high school and  
3 provide for mechanisms to facilitate implementation of this early high school graduation  
4 policy by local public schools and school systems, which mechanisms may include flexible  
5 course scheduling and use of distance learning, online courses, Advanced Placement,  
6 International Baccalaureate, and other accelerated learning programs and examinations; and

7           WHEREAS, this law also requires each city, parish, and other local public school  
8 board to fully implement the provisions of the early high school graduation policy adopted  
9 by the state board; and

10           WHEREAS, according to the state Department of Education, over two thousand  
11 students graduated early from high school in the 2015-2016 school year and approximately  
12 fifty percent of students enrolled in the twelfth grade require a full course load in order to  
13 fulfill graduation requirements; and

14           WHEREAS, with improved academic counseling and supports, more students could  
15 be eligible to graduate early, thereby enabling them to more quickly transition to  
16 postsecondary education or the workforce; and

17           WHEREAS, early graduation from high school can result in significant financial  
18 savings for students' families and the state; and

19           WHEREAS, those savings could be used to increase financial support for other state  
20 priorities, particularly early childhood care and education.

21           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
22 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governing authority of each public  
23 middle school and high school to include in each eighth grade student's required Individual  
24 Graduation Plan a plan for how the student can complete high school graduation  
25 requirements prior to the end of the twelfth grade.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
27 of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state superintendent of education to submit  
28 an annual report to the House Committee on Appropriations, at such time as the committees  
29 receive a presentation from the state Department of Education regarding the governor's  
30 proposed executive budget, on the number of high school students who graduate early, any

1 specific actions or initiatives underway to support early high school graduation, and the  
2 approximate savings from early high school graduation that could be used for early  
3 childhood care and education services in Louisiana.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
5 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state  
6 superintendent of education, the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards  
7 Association, and the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter  
8 Schools.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 236 Original

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Steve Carter

Requests the governing authority of each public middle school and high school to include in each eighth grade student's required Individual Graduation Plan a plan for how the student can complete high school graduation requirements prior to the end of the 12th grade. Requests the state superintendent of education to submit an annual report on the number of high school students who graduate early, any specific actions or initiatives underway to support early high school graduation, and the approximate savings that could be used for early childhood care and education services.