

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 191

BY REPRESENTATIVE MAGEE

A RESOLUTION

To direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to revise the accountability system for schools participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program and submit a written report to the House Committee on Education detailing its revision process not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the Student Scholarship for Educational Excellence Program provides opportunities for students to attend participating schools through state-funded scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has long demonstrated its commitment to education accountability, and this program is no exception; current law requires the state Department of Education to provide an accountability system for this program, and that system is contained in the rules and regulations of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, this accountability system includes the assignment of a scholarship cohort index, which is similar to a school performance score except that it is calculated solely on the performance of scholarship recipients on state assessments rather than the student population as a whole; and

WHEREAS, not all schools participating in the program receive such an index; only schools with ten or more scholarship recipients per grade or forty or more students enrolled in tested grades receive this measurement; and

WHEREAS, some education stakeholders have expressed concern that the threshold for determining whether or not a school receives a scholarship cohort index should be based

on a uniform percentage of students applicable to all participating schools rather than an arbitrary number (forty) that is applied to all participating schools regardless of the size of the scholarship cohort or the student population as a whole; and

WHEREAS, current law authorizes the state superintendent of education to make adjustments to individual numeric performance targets and thresholds in the program's accountability system pursuant rules and regulations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to revise the accountability system for schools participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program as contained in Section 1305 of Chapter 13 of Bulletin 133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such revision shall provide for the reporting of the academic performance of participating students in a manner that preserves the measurement of student performance for accountability purposes but does so in a more equitable manner for participating schools while continuing to protect student confidentiality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Education detailing its revision process, including but not limited to any meetings held with respect thereto, not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES