

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 203

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Education to study and make recommendations regarding the current procedures and practices for providing professional development to teachers.

WHEREAS, professional development has been defined as "the process of improving staff skills and competencies needed to produce outstanding educational results for students"; and

WHEREAS, professional development is the primary strategy schools and school districts utilize to ensure that educators continue to strengthen their instructional and classroom management skills throughout their career; and

WHEREAS, the most effective professional development engages teams of teachers who help each other learn and problem solve together to promote student success and attain higher professional skills; and

WHEREAS, policy makers at the state and local level have a responsibility to provide meaningful opportunities for teachers to engage in continuous professional learning and apply that learning in a manner that increases student academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 1129 of the 2012 Regular Session sought to establish a framework through which to provide comprehensive professional development to teachers at all stages of their career; and

WHEREAS, an examination of the state's current policies, practices, and activities for the provision of professional development to teachers in light of that proposed by House Bill No. 1129 might prove useful going forward.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study and make recommendations regarding the current procedures and practices for providing professional development to teachers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall seek the input of the following in conducting the study:

- (1) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- (2) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- (3) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.
- (4) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- (5) The Louisiana Association of Principals.
- (6) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (7) The Council for a Better Louisiana.
- (8) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- (9) Stand for Children Louisiana.
- (10) Any other education stakeholder the state superintendent of education

wishes to include.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department submit a written report of its findings to the Senate and House committees on education not later than March 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE