

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Department of Education to offer competitive sources of additional funding to states, through their respective eligible entities, in a second round of federal funding in accordance with the spirit of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

WHEREAS, we are now competing and living in a global community, and as a result, our public school students no longer compete only with their peers in Louisiana but also with students throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, as changes continue, we must do everything we can to prepare our students for this new reality; and

WHEREAS, with collective effort and support our students can achieve any goal placed before them including being abundantly prepared to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act was a bipartisan legislative effort signed into law in 2015, replacing the No Child Left Behind Act; and

WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act provides states with opportunities to further shape public school systems in a way that will best prepare students for the future; and

WHEREAS, in order for positive change to take place, additional funding may be required from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, in recent years we have seen that by states discussing public education policy and the federal government providing needed funding, positive results in increasing student learning outcomes and preparedness can be achieved; and

WHEREAS, in order for school systems to effectively prepare students and allocate resources with fairness, additional funding beyond the level of current federal funding is needed; and

WHEREAS, an increase in this effectiveness and fairness will lead to better overall preparedness of all public school students; and

WHEREAS, fairness is defined by equitably allocating funding to students based on need, with an annual baseline funding amount of nine thousand five hundred eighty-five dollars per student when adjusted for the comparative wage index or within ten percent of current funding levels, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures convened a bipartisan working group of twenty-eight legislators and others from around the country, and the group issued a report titled "No Time to Lose: How to Build a World-Class Education System State by State"; and

WHEREAS, the report included findings on effective school systems around the world, and after the eighteen-month study, the group concluded that there were some recurring components and several repeated overarching factors in those effective systems; and

WHEREAS, according to the report, the elements of an effective public education system are:

(1) Children come to school ready to learn, and extra support is given to struggling students so that all have the opportunity to achieve high standards.

(2) A world-class teaching profession supports a world-class instructional system where every student has access to highly effective teachers and is expected to succeed.

(3) A highly effective, intellectually rigorous system of career and technical education is available to those preferring an applied education.

(4) Individual reforms are connected and aligned as parts of a clearly planned and carefully designed comprehensive system; and

WHEREAS, as it relates to such elements:

(1) An "effective school system" is defined as a public school system that sets high student learning outcomes, including academic standards, and then implements changes to achieve those high standards within the system.

(2) "High standards" are defined as standards that are internationally competitive.

(3) "Internationally competitive" can be defined as a public school system globally ranked among the top ten with respect to the Program for International Student Assessment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the spirit of the Every Student Succeeds Act, which encourages states to implement adjustments to their public school systems and to help achieve higher levels of effectiveness and fairness within such school systems, the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Department of Education to offer competitive sources of additional funding to states, through their respective eligible entities, in a second round of federal funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of Education is requested to provide additional funding to those states currently under an annual baseline funding amount of nine thousand five hundred eighty-five dollars per student when adjusted for the comparative wage index.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that although positive changes require collective effort, teachers are the largest contributing factor to student success and preparedness; therefore, the United States Department of Education is requested to pay to each full-time national board certified public school teacher a five thousand dollar annual bonus payment provided that certain criteria are met with regard to students' scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress and other requirements.

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE