

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR CARTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to submit a report to the legislature regarding policies made, rules and regulations promulgated, and actions taken by the state Department of Education and public school governing authorities to implement the guiding principles and recommendations contained in the Alternative Education Study Group Report issued by the department in October 2017.

WHEREAS, Louisiana has thirty-five alternative education schools and one hundred twenty-seven alternative education programs that enroll more than eighteen thousand students who were either suspended or expelled from their home school, the majority for minor to moderate, nonviolent behavior infractions that should be addressed by the home school; and

WHEREAS, data show that students assigned to an alternative education school or program are five times more likely to drop out of school and less likely to earn a high school diploma or a certificate of completion; and

WHEREAS, maintaining current policies and practices relative to behavior intervention and alternative education schools and programs constitutes a disservice to students who need to receive the academic, behavioral, social, and emotional services and supports to address and resolve the sources of their problems and enable them to successfully complete high school and college and be career ready; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the pressing need to enhance and expand the effectiveness of the state's alternative education services, the state Department of Education formed the Alternative Education Study Group in March 2017 to "provide guidance for improving alternative education services and practices statewide for students who are most at-risk for not completing their education"; and

WHEREAS, the state Department of Education is to be commended for taking the initiative to create a study group composed of stakeholders to undertake an objective, comprehensive study of current practices in the state's alternative schools and programs, and create a state action plan composed of guiding principles designed to address the needs of students enrolled in alternative schools and programs; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has a vested interest in learning how the state Department of Education, school governing authorities, and schools are responding to the call of action detailed in the study group's comprehensive report to address the needs of the educationally at-risk students enrolled in alternative schools and programs across the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to submit a report to the legislature, not later than March 1, 2019, regarding policies made, rules and regulations promulgated, and actions taken by the state Department of Education and public school governing authorities to implement the guiding principles and recommendations contained in the Alternative Education Study Group Report issued by the department in October 2017.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES