

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 247

BY SENATOR BARROW

BESE. Requests each public school governing authority to review and consider the results of screenings in determining whether students should be evaluated for giftedness and dyslexia programs.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request each public school governing authority to review and consider the
3 results of student screenings conducted to determine whether a student should be
4 evaluated for dyslexia or giftedness, or both, and to study the feasibility of
5 implementing universal screenings of students for dyslexia and giftedness.

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

10 WHEREAS, the legislature acknowledges that identification of and adjustment to the
11 individual characteristics that determine a child's academic needs will improve a child's
12 opportunity to succeed in school and to develop to his full potential; and

13 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the unique needs of students who demonstrate
14 high academic and intellectual aptitude and that such students may require individualized
15 education programs and additional funds through the minimum foundation program formula
16 to support their individualized services; and

17 WHEREAS, regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
18 Education, as contained in *Bulletin 1508–Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, require school systems

1 to develop and implement procedures for screening students who are suspected of being
2 gifted; and

3 WHEREAS, according to information from the state Department of Education, only
4 about twenty-eight percent of students identified as gifted are economically disadvantaged
5 and only eighteen percent of the gifted student population are students of color; and

6 WHEREAS, current law (R.S. 17:7(11)) requires the State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education to adopt and provide for the implementation of a program for students
8 enrolling in public schools to be tested for dyslexia and related disorders as may be
9 necessary; and

10 WHEREAS, current law (R.S. 17:392.1) requires that every child in public school
11 in kindergarten through grade three be screened for the existence of impediments to a
12 successful school experience including dyslexia and related disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, state law defines "dyslexia" as a language processing disorder that may
14 be manifested in difficulties with reading, comprehension, writing, and spelling, despite
15 adequate intelligence, educational exposure, and cultural opportunity; and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
17 Education adopted regulations, as contained in *Bulletin 1903—Regulations for the*
18 *Implementation of Louisiana Law for the Education of Dyslexic Students*, to require school
19 systems to identify, evaluate, and support students with dyslexia; and

20 WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:182, requires the governing authority of each
21 public elementary school to implement a reading program that is designed and intended to
22 teach each student to read at grade level by the end of the first grade; and

23 WHEREAS, this law further requires each second grade teacher and each third grade
24 teacher to report the number of students in the teacher's class who cannot read at grade level
25 and requires that this information be sent to the state superintendent of education and the
26 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

27 WHEREAS, the law additionally requires the State Board of Elementary and
28 Secondary Education annually to compile a report of such information for each school,
29 school system, and the state as a whole and to submit the report to the senate and house
30 education committees; and

1 WHEREAS, one way to increase equity in the identification of students who are
2 gifted and those who have dyslexia is to consider the results of screenings administered to
3 elementary school students; and

4 WHEREAS, this information could reveal individual student abilities and challenges
5 that suggest the need for a student to be evaluated to determine if he is gifted or dyslexic or
6 both.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
8 does hereby urge and request each public school governing authority to review and consider
9 the results of student screenings conducted to determine whether a student should be
10 evaluated for dyslexia or giftedness, or both, in accordance with state laws and regulations.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
12 hereby urge and request each public school governing authority to study the feasibility of
13 implementing universal screenings of students for dyslexia and giftedness in order to provide
14 all students with an equal opportunity to have their needs identified and properly supported
15 so that they may develop to their full potential.

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

SR 247 Original

DIGEST
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