

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To commend John Charles White for eight years of service as Louisiana's State Superintendent of Education.

WHEREAS, in January 2012, John White was appointed to the position by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, prior to this appointment, John White served as the Superintendent of the Louisiana Recovery School District, which included Orleans Parish schools post-Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, John White has been described as a hard-charging education reform evangelist, who launched *Louisiana Believes*, the state plan to ensure that every child is on track to college or a professional career; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with that plan, he helped usher in statewide expansion of school vouchers, tougher annual evaluations for public school teachers, and stricter rules on how public schools are rated; and

WHEREAS, John White worked to unify the state's fragmented early childhood system; and

WHEREAS, he modernized the curriculum and professionalized the preparation of educators in an effort to provide and enhance the pathways to prosperity for all high school graduates; and

WHEREAS, John White's efforts resulted in Louisiana being better educated today than at any time in the state's history; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Louisiana boasted an increased graduation rate of 81% which translates to about 5,000 more students graduating, enrolling in community colleges, or universities; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranked No. 1 in 2019 on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) for improvement in eighth grade mathematics and it ranks in the top 10 among states for improvement on all four main NAEP tests; and

WHEREAS, more Louisiana graduates than ever before have earned TOPS scholarships to ease the financial burden of a college degree; and

WHEREAS, John White has vacated his position as Louisiana's State Superintendent of Education effective March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, John White stated that, "his greatest blessing and privilege of his career was being named state superintendent of education for Louisiana".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend John Charles White for eight years of service as Louisiana's State Superintendent of Education and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to John Charles White.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE