

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 177

BY SENATOR MCMATH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the Department of Education, and local school governing authorities to support and implement effective, evidence-based, high-impact tutoring programs to combat COVID-19 learning loss.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in school closures and disruptions to learning, causing significant learning loss, particularly impacting disadvantaged students from low-income families who are on track to sustain the greatest learning loss; and

WHEREAS, McKinsey & Company, a worldwide consulting firm, projects students could lose an average of five to nine months of learning by the end of the school year, and disadvantaged students could lose six to twelve months of learning; and

WHEREAS, nationally, districts have not spent ninety-three percent of one hundred twenty-two billion dollars invested into the K-12 education system last year as part of the one point nine trillion dollar American Rescue Plan, according to data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, this infusion of federal funds will expire; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, nearly four billion dollars were invested and less than seven hundred million dollars have been expended to date by districts according the U.S. Department of Education, including eighty-eight million dollars in unspent funding for tutoring, one hundred thirty-four point nine million dollars in unspent funding for summer learning and enrichment, and thirty-seven point eight million dollars in unspent funding for after school programming; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's early literacy rates are consistently among the lowest in the nation according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); and

WHEREAS, according to the National Student Support Accelerator, research consistently demonstrates that tutoring interventions have substantial positive effects on student learning; and

WHEREAS, high-impact or high-dosage tutoring, according to the Annenberg Institute, is defined as more than three days per week or at a rate of at least fifty hours over thirty-six weeks was found to increase achievement by roughly an additional three to fifteen months of learning across grade levels; and

WHEREAS, ACT 294 of the 2021 Regular Session of the legislature was enacted to require state and local education agencies to provide expanded academic support to students using federal funds intended for educational relief relative to COVID-19.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), the Department of Education, and local school governing authorities to support and implement effective, evidence-based, high-impact tutoring programs to combat COVID-19 learning loss.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of BESE, the Superintendent of Education, and district superintendents.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE