

1 thereby increasing exposure to apprenticeships and the workforce talent pipeline; and

2 WHEREAS, in Louisiana, work-based learning opportunities such as internships,
3 cooperative education, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships are defined in different
4 places in law and policy and with different levels of specificity, resulting in lack of clarity
5 on pathways and, thereby, young people are not accessing high-quality apprenticeships at
6 the rate at which they could be; and

7 WHEREAS, other states have established youth-serving apprenticeship programs,
8 which are programs with fewer hours or more structure and supports than full
9 apprenticeships, tailored to high school students, in order to bridge the gap from high school
10 to career; and

11 WHEREAS, promoting career and workforce readiness should be recognized as
12 having the same importance as preparing students for post-secondary education
13 opportunities; and

14 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Education has adopted new measures to
15 support young people's access to apprenticeships in recent years, including the Fast Forward
16 program and a legislative allocation; and

17 WHEREAS, more information is needed to (1) understand the extent to which work-
18 based learning opportunities and associated funding sources are currently being used by
19 Louisiana school systems, (2) identify best practices for building pathways for young people
20 to access apprenticeships, which can be learned from locally-created youth serving
21 apprentice programs in Louisiana and from legislative programs in other states, (3)
22 recommend definitions for a connected set of work-based learning opportunities so that
23 young people can progress through these experiences towards an apprenticeship, (4) propose
24 new experiences that fill gaps in the work-based learning experience continuum for high
25 school students, and (5) identify process improvements, supports, and incentives that would
26 enable school systems to guide students through high school pathways that lead to
27 apprenticeships; and

28 WHEREAS, public schools should be afforded support in the effort to promote and
29 provide career and workforce opportunities to students; and

30 WHEREAS, identifying programs and practices that have been successful will enable

