

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider the adoption of a policy allowing online public schools to administer state assessments remotely and in a virtual setting.

WHEREAS, thousands of public school students are enrolled in full-time online public schools across the state, and federal law and state law require the administration of state assessments to all public school students, including those enrolled in online schools; and

WHEREAS, current policy of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education requires that virtual charter schools conduct all state assessments at secure, proctored locations within reasonable distance of students' homes, as approved by the charter authorizer, which means that schools set up multiple in-person testing locations across the state; and

WHEREAS, the parents of online public school students face hardships in terms of taking time off from work in order to travel to testing locations, and it is especially challenging for those in rural and remote areas; and

WHEREAS, at-risk students, low-income students, and students with disabilities attending online public schools face challenges with in-person state testing mandates, including out-of-pocket travel costs, accessibility challenges for students with disabilities, and other accommodations for students with special needs; and

WHEREAS, online public school teachers are diverted away from teaching to serve as proctors at testing facilities across the state, and instruction is interrupted over multiple days and weeks, which adversely impacts student learning; and

WHEREAS, standardized assessments can be safely and successfully administered to students remotely using modern software and technology that is secure, safe, and effective and ensures test integrity; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that allowing for remote testing for students who learn from home results in greater participation, which provides more reliable and accurate performance data; and

WHEREAS, remote state testing is a proven solution to addressing the inequities and unnecessary burdens that online public school students and teachers face relative to the administration of state assessments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education consider the adoption of a policy that allows online public schools to administer state assessments required pursuant to R.S. 17:24.4 remotely and in a virtual setting.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES