

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility of implementing a one hundred point scale for performance score ranges used to assign school and district letter grades for purposes of the school and district accountability system and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, current law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for a statewide school and district accountability system based on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of schools; and

WHEREAS, current law further provides that this system shall include, at a minimum, clear and appropriate standards for schools and districts, indicators for the assessment of schools and school districts, student achievement baselines, student growth targets, and minimum levels of student achievement for each public school and district, rewards and corrective actions, intervals for assessment and reassessment, a review process for evaluating growth targets, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, current law also provides that this system shall be based, in part, on growth in student achievement using a value-added assessment model as determined by BESE and requires the assignment of letter grades based on performance scores to schools and districts; and

WHEREAS, BESE policy provides for a one hundred fifty point scale used to align school and district performance scores with corresponding letter grades, as follows: a performance score of 100-150 is an "A", a score of 85-99.9 is a "B", a score of 70-84.9 is a "C", a score of 50-69.9 is a "D", and any score below 50 is an "F"; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile, for students in grades kindergarten through twelve, BESE policy provides for a uniform grading scale that is based on a one hundred point scale, as

follows: a grade of 93-100 is an "A", a grade of 85-92 is a "B", a grade of 75-84 is a "C", a grade of 67-74 is a "D", and a grade of 0-66 is an "F"; and

WHEREAS, this uniform grading scale is familiar and generally understood by students, parents, and the general public; however, some have expressed concern that many people are confused by the one hundred fifty point accountability scale; and

WHEREAS, using a one hundred point scale, to which many have grown accustomed through its widespread use for students' grades, for the performance score scale on which school and district letter grades are based may lead to greater transparency and a clearer understanding of how schools and districts are actually performing; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education evaluate the feasibility of implementing a one hundred point scale for purposes of the school and district accountability system in the effort to make school and district performance scores and letter grades more easily understandable by students, parents, and the general public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility of implementing a one hundred point scale for performance score ranges used to assign school and district letter grades through the school and district accountability system and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE