

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Education to plan and conduct a Teacher Empowerment, Learning and Leading Survey (La TELLS) Initiative.

WHEREAS, the teaching and learning conditions under which teachers practice their profession, though often overlooked, are essential elements to student achievement and teacher retention; and

WHEREAS, these conditions must be systematically studied and addressed for Louisiana to develop a critical mass of teachers who are well prepared to teach and who will remain in hardest-to-staff schools long enough to make a significant difference for students and their families; and

WHEREAS, certain nonprofit entities such as the New Teacher Center initiative administer anonymous, online surveys regarding teaching conditions to principals, teachers, counselors, and other administrators, and delivers results which, upon fifty-percent minimum response rate from licensed educators at each school, may be utilized in individual school improvement plans and policies; and

WHEREAS, states including Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts have utilized the results of New Teacher Center surveys to make positive steps towards improving teaching conditions such as school and teacher leadership, new teacher and instructional support, professional development, and improvement of school facilities and resources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Education to use in the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 fiscal years such federal, state or private funding as may become available for studies of this type, and which shall not diminish resources allocated for existing or additional educational programs necessary to the mission of the Department of Education, to plan and conduct a Teacher Empowerment, Learning and Leading Survey (La TELLS) Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in collaboration with the education, teaching, and administrator stakeholder organizations is urged to use these funds to:

- (1) Administer such surveys on a pilot basis during the 2013-2014 fiscal year, in cooperation with nonprofit entities such as the New Teacher Center, and administer thereafter on a biennial basis if such is indicated by the results of the pilot;
- (2) Establish a Teacher and Administrator Advisory Board which shall oversee implementation of recommendations from the survey and which shall be composed of one representative each from the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana Association of Educators, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the Louisiana Association of School Executives, the Louisiana Association of School Administrators, the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana, the Louisiana School Boards Association, the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, and other education stakeholders as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- (3) Support the collaboration of public schools and public school districts in providing customized analysis to incorporate in school improvement plans; and
- (4) Promote the collaboration of public school teachers and administrators in the development of professional development designed to enhance the instructional and student assessment skills of classroom teachers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES