

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRIS AND GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study transparency in education with respect to parental access to instructional materials and submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has demonstrated its commitment to transparency in public education by enacting several laws providing for parental access to instructional materials; and

WHEREAS, legislative findings in the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools, as enacted in R.S. 17:406.9, provide that parental involvement is a significant factor in increasing student achievement and that access to student information encourages greater parental involvement; and

WHEREAS, this law provides that parents have certain rights, including those relative to examining textbooks, curricula, and supplemental materials; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Parents' Bill of Rights, R.S. 17:355 provides that parents are entitled to access instructional materials, defined as content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination of media for conveying information to a student; any nonsecure test, nonsecure assessment, or survey administered to a student; books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material, information, or services; or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process; and

WHEREAS, some school districts make instructional materials easily accessible to parents via online platforms or other means; however, some parents report that their attempts

to access instructional materials have been unsuccessful or that the process has been overly burdensome; and

WHEREAS, there is strong interest on the part of the legislature and the public regarding how parental access to instructional materials is being handled throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of students, parents, and teachers that parents are able to readily access what children are learning in school in order to further family engagement in the learning process and enrich the educational experience for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to conduct a study relative to transparency in education by surveying each local public school board and the governing authority of each charter school to determine the mechanism provided for parental access to instructional materials and submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this study, the department shall give parents and other members of the public an opportunity to provide input in terms of their experiences in seeking to access instructional materials, and this input shall be incorporated into the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include best practices among schools and school systems both in Louisiana and other states with regard to educational transparency.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES