

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 195

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate rules to provide for teacher and parental access to and review of student assessments.

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:355, provides that a parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school shall be entitled to access to instructional materials; and

WHEREAS, this law further provides that a parent is entitled to review instructional materials used by or administered to his or her child; and

WHEREAS, this law defines "instructional materials" 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 including 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, current law, R.S. 17:24.4, requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to implement standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally; and

WHEREAS, this law further requires such standards-based assessments in English language arts and mathematics to be based on nationally recognized content standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:10.1, requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide for a school and district accountability system based on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of public schools; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the school and district accountability system by the state board necessitates the use of secure, standards-based assessments to produce valid and reliable data on student achievement; and

WHEREAS, it is important to provide teachers with the assessment results for their students and to make the assessments available to parents of students taking the assessments in a manner that does not compromise the security or use or increase the cost of the assessments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for teacher and parental access to and review of student assessments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such rules shall include a process and procedures for both of the following:

(1) Teachers to review the assessment results of any student he taught for the subject he taught in that school year and review an individualized student assessment report that identifies the student's performance in each assessment domain.

(2) Parents of students taking the assessments to review each assessment, excluding a national assessment that the state Department of Education is prohibited by the assessment vendor from providing to a parent for review, in a secure setting. The review shall be held within ten days following the dissemination of assessment results to parents and shall be offered for at least ten consecutive business days at the department's main office during regular business hours in the presence of the director of assessments or his designee. Parents shall be given reasonable time to complete the review, not to exceed two hours, and shall not be permitted to photocopy or photograph any assessment item or question or make handwritten, typed, or orally recorded notes that identify an assessment item or question. The board may require a parent who violates such prohibitions to reimburse the state Department of Education for any costs incurred by the department to replace any assessment items or questions determined to no longer be secure due to the actions of the parent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate and implement such rules in order to provide for such access and review by teachers and parents following the administration of standards-based assessments during the 2015-2016 school year.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES