

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 236

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governing authority of each public middle school and high school to include in students' required Individual Graduation Plans a plan for how the student can complete high school graduation requirements prior to the end of the twelfth grade.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of Louisiana's public educational system to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, the constitution places with the legislature the responsibility to provide for the education of the people of the state and to establish and maintain a public educational system; and

WHEREAS, the constitution charges the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with supervising and controlling the public elementary and secondary schools as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:7(30), as enacted in 2010, requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt a policy to allow students to accelerate their academic progress, complete all high school graduation requirements, and receive a high school diploma in less than four years; and

WHEREAS, this law further requires that such policy adopted by the state board shall encourage and support students who seek early graduation from high school and provide for mechanisms to facilitate implementation of this early high school graduation

policy by local public schools and school systems, which mechanisms may include flexible course scheduling and use of distance learning, online courses, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other accelerated learning programs and examinations; and

WHEREAS, this law also requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to fully implement the provisions of the early high school graduation policy adopted by the state board; and

WHEREAS, according to the state Department of Education, over two thousand students graduated early from high school in the 2015-2016 school year and approximately fifty percent of students enrolled in the twelfth grade require a full course load in order to fulfill graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, with improved academic counseling and supports, more students could be eligible to graduate early, thereby enabling them to more quickly transition to postsecondary education or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, early graduation from high school can result in significant financial savings for students' families and the state; and

WHEREAS, those savings could be used to increase financial support for other state priorities, particularly early childhood care and education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the governing authority of each public middle school and high school to include in each eighth grade student's required Individual Graduation Plan a plan for how the student can complete high school graduation requirements prior to the end of the twelfth grade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state superintendent of education to submit an annual report to the House Committee on Appropriations, at such time as the committees receive a presentation from the state Department of Education regarding the governor's proposed executive budget, on the number of high school students who graduate early, any specific actions or initiatives underway to support early high school graduation, and the approximate savings from early high school graduation that could be used for early childhood care and education services in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, and the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES