

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

BESE. Requests BESE to study and determine the most equitable method of funding special education students within the MFP formula.

1    A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2            To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and  
3                      determine the most equitable funding methodology to appropriately address the  
4                      individual needs of children with special needs within the Minimum Foundation  
5                      Program formula and to incorporate such methodology into the formula as  
6                      expeditiously as possible.

7            WHEREAS, the minimum foundation formula provides an extra weight of 1.50 to  
8                      be applied to the base level of funding to generate additional funds to address the needs of  
9                      special education students, other than gifted and talented students; and

10            WHEREAS, utilizing the same weighting factor for every special education student,  
11                      regardless of the type or degree of exceptionality, does not ensure that each child receives  
12                      a level of funding that is directly related to the type, cost, or duration of services needed to  
13                      address his specific needs; and

14            WHEREAS, use of what is essentially a flat rate of funding for special education  
15                      students, regardless of the cost or level of services actually provided to the student by the  
16                      school or other educational provider, is inherently inequitable; and

17            WHEREAS, this inequity in funding will inevitably leave schools that enroll students  
18                      with more profound exceptionalities with proportionately fewer resources to address the

1 needs of the special education children who need it most; and

2 WHEREAS, reason and logic support the use of a range of weights, or use of a cost-  
3 based component, within the Minimum Foundation Program formula to generate special  
4 education funding that is directly related to the specific needs of each student identified with  
5 an exceptionality, to the actual cost of providing the services required to meet the needs of  
6 each child, and to the level of services actually provided to each child; and

7 WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate for the State Board of Elementary and  
8 Secondary Education to consider developing and incorporating a methodology within the  
9 MFP formula by which to generate differentiated levels of special education funding aligned  
10 with the needs of the individual special needs child.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
12 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and  
13 determine the most equitable funding methodology to appropriately address the individual  
14 needs of children with special needs within the Minimum Foundation Program formula and  
15 to incorporate such methodology into the formula as expeditiously as possible.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board submit a written report of its findings  
17 and recommendations to the Senate and House committees on education not later than  
18 March 15, 2013.

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

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

---

#### DIGEST

Claitor

SCR No.

Requests BESE to study and determine the most equitable funding methodology to appropriately address the individual needs of children with special needs within the Minimum Foundation Program formula and to incorporate such methodology into the formula as expeditiously as possible.

Provides for a written report of findings and recommendations to the Senate and House committees on education not later than March 15, 2013.