

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 189

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 8, 2018, as "Teacher Appreciation Day" at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, public school teachers, nonpublic school teachers, and parents who serve as home study teachers serve the needs of nearly nine hundred thousand Louisiana children from birth to twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana teachers serve students in diverse settings including prekindergarten programs, traditional and charter public schools, nonpublic schools, parochial schools, Montessori schools, virtual schools, home schools, and early learning centers; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of over forty-seven thousand Louisiana public school teachers have resulted in tremendous gains for Louisiana students year after year; and

WHEREAS, in the past five years, the percentage of students scoring "Mastery" and above on the LEAP in grades three through eight has increased thirteen percent; and

WHEREAS, the number of students earning a college-going score of at least eighteen on the ACT has increased by six thousand nine hundred eighty since 2012 and the number of students scoring twenty-one or above has increased by three thousand eight hundred ninety-six; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, the number of students earning Advanced Placement credit each year has increased by more than three thousand seven hundred, an increase of more than one hundred thirty-seven percent; and

WHEREAS, more students graduated in 2016 than ever before with a graduation rate of seventy-seven percent, an increase of over three thousand four hundred students since 2012; and

WHEREAS, the rate of students enrolling in college is also on the rise, with fifty-eight percent of students enrolling in 2015; and

WHEREAS, teachers are not only expected to be experts in their content and pedagogical approaches, but also effectively address the individual interests, strengths, and needs of their students and communities, often teaching multiple siblings, relatives, and generations of students during their careers; and

WHEREAS, teachers' responsibilities can extend far beyond those listed in their job descriptions, and their time commitment can extend far beyond the daily bell-to-bell; it is not uncommon for teachers to make extra time for parents before the school day starts, squeeze in tutoring during the few free minutes of the school day, run clubs or coach sports after school, chaperone, supervise, or cheer on students during weekends, and instruct students who need extra help over the summer; and

WHEREAS, teachers often reach beyond their students to ensure that parents, grandparents, and extended families, who may have struggled in school themselves, receive the knowledge and resources they desire to help their children in any way they can; and

WHEREAS, while society holds teachers to the highest professional standards, expecting them to serve as model citizens by demonstrating patience, empathy, and fairness always, many teachers surpass our expectations by choosing to serve as mentors, counselors, and even parents when students lack the needed and deserved support; and

WHEREAS, countless Louisiana citizens attribute their professional success and personal happiness to a teacher who chose to care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the dedicated work and contributions of all teachers across the state of Louisiana; does hereby extend enduring appreciation and gratitude for their role in shaping the intellect and character of our next generation; and does hereby designate Tuesday, May 8, 2018, as "Teacher Appreciation Day" at the state capitol.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE