

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 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, which for the 2015-2016 school year included fourth grade students achieving the highest growth among all states on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading test and the second highest growth in math, an increase in the ACT average composite score for the third year in a row to 19.5, a record twenty-five thousand one hundred forty-four high school seniors earning a college-entrance score which resulted in an increase of six thousand eight hundred thirty-seven students since 2012, and Louisiana's high school graduation rate in 2015 was at an all-time high of 77.5%; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Louisiana's class of 2015 Advanced Placement results showed greater annual improvement than any state other than Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, teachers are not only expected to be experts in their content and pedagogical approaches, but also in 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 2, 2017, as Teacher Appreciation Day at the state capitol.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE