

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To designate Wednesday, May 1, 2024, as Literacy Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, seventy-two percent of Louisiana's fourth grade students do not read proficiently; and

WHEREAS, students who do not read proficiently by the end of the third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school, and those who have not mastered at least a basic level of reading proficiency are nearly six times as likely to leave school without earning a diploma; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia is a specific learning disability that affects as many as one in five people; and

WHEREAS, literacy is foundational to a student's academic success; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Literacy and Learning was founded in 1992 and has been implementing instructional and coaching practices based on scientific research, knowledge, and best practices that improve teaching and increase student learning for thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Literacy and Learning uses its three hundred forty-seven years of combined professional education experience to focus on closing the achievement gap by increasing teacher effectiveness and advancing public education reform by providing educators who teach our most at-risk children with professional learning that is specific and targeted to the needs of those students and their fellow teachers; and

WHEREAS, with a literacy wraparound approach, the Center for Literacy and Learning provides services to educators, families, and communities to support both in and out-of-classroom learning; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Literacy and Learning and the Louisiana Department of Education created a key partnership emphasizing the importance of improving our state's literacy rates and launched the Literacy Coaching Program in 2020, through which specialists served twelve local education agencies, fifty-three individual schools, and forty-five literacy coaches in the 2023-2024 school year; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Center for Literacy and Learning successfully advocated for the legislative creation of the Early Literacy Commission, which met as a body of experts to review and discuss the progress of literacy initiatives of the Louisiana Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Center for Literacy and Learning successfully advocated for the legislative creation of the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission, which meets to discuss and make recommendations for improving, strengthening, and supporting literacy in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, improving the literacy rate in Louisiana is necessary for developing a robust workforce, creating high-quality jobs, and strengthening our economy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the dedicated work of the Center for Literacy and Learning, extend sincere gratitude for their work in improving reading proficiency in all of Louisiana's students, and designate Wednesday, May 1, 2024, as Literacy Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Center for Literacy and Learning.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE