

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY SENATORS ERDEY, BROOME AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study student to classroom teacher ratios in elementary grade classrooms across the state and to make recommendations relative to how a student to classroom teacher of not more than twenty to one can be achieved in each classroom in such grades.

WHEREAS, current State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations establish a maximum enrollment level in most classes of twenty-six students per class in grades kindergarten through three and thirty-three students per class in grades four through twelve; and

WHEREAS, current state board policy provides for a system-wide maximum student to classroom teacher ratio in grades kindergarten through three of twenty students to one classroom teacher, but has no such provision for the upper elementary grades and has no requirement at all to implement this ratio in all elementary grade classrooms; and

WHEREAS, teachers with small classes are required to spend less time on classroom management issues and are thus able to provide each student more individualized attention; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that reduced class sizes are associated with increased student achievement that is long lasting, especially when smaller class size standards are implemented in the early grades and students are enrolled in small classes for successive years; and

WHEREAS, a Princeton University study found that reducing class size in the early grades shrinks the achievement gap by approximately thirty-eight percent; and

WHEREAS, the educational foundation laid in the early grades, especially in the areas of reading and mathematics, is essential to student performance throughout a child's academic career and thus influences success later in life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study student to classroom teacher ratios in elementary grade classrooms across the state and to make recommendations relative to how a student to classroom teacher of not more than twenty to one can be achieved in each classroom in such grades.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on Education not later than March 15, 2011.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES