

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, through the state Department of Education, to develop and provide online educational resources to ensure that each public school student has access to robust online learning options for the 2020-2021 school year.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 resulted in the closure of K-12 school facilities beginning in March 2020, in order to protect the health of students, teachers, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, school facilities remained closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, there is great concern that the reduced classroom instruction time will impair the ability of students to begin the 2020-2021 school year on grade level; and

WHEREAS, educators diligently sought to continue delivering instruction through a variety of methods, including online instruction; and

WHEREAS, despite best efforts, there were wide discrepancies in access to and quality of educational resources for students, both between and within school systems; and

WHEREAS, the federal CARES Act has provided funding to help ensure schools and students have more equitable access to educational resources, including devices and services to access online instruction; and

WHEREAS, educators are working to identify and address any learning deficits resulting from the closure of school facilities; and

WHEREAS, even the best laid plans may be disrupted if school facilities are not able to reopen, are not able to reopen at full capacity, or are even forced to close again; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the status of reopening of school facilities, some parents may feel that it is in the best interest of their children for them to remain at home and access learning through online resources; and

WHEREAS, the development of uniform online learning options by the state Department of Education will provide students who are learning at home, whether by parental choice or governmental directives, equitable access to robust resources to help them achieve grade level learning.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, through the state Department of Education, to develop and provide online educational resources to ensure that each public school student has access to robust online learning options for the 2020-2021 school year.

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