

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 182

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

SECONDARY EDUCATION. Requests the state superintendent of education, in consultation with local and state officials, to jointly study and develop recommendations for creating a more seamless system of secondary and postsecondary education.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state superintendent of education, commissioner of higher  
3 education, secretary of economic development, and executive director of the  
4 Louisiana Workforce Commission, in consultation with local school systems, college  
5 and university systems, and the Workforce Investment Council, to jointly study and  
6 develop recommendations for creating a more seamless system of secondary and  
7 postsecondary education.

8 WHEREAS, Louisiana's public high school education outcomes, including  
9 graduation rate and the attainment of dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, CLEP, and  
10 industry-based certification, are incrementally increasing but remain below that of many  
11 other states nationally; and

12 WHEREAS, many high school students and their parents continue to lack sufficient  
13 information about their academic options and have a limited ability to direct their high  
14 school education academic experience to meet high school graduation requirements and to  
15 plan toward postsecondary education goals; and

16 WHEREAS, current limitations include inadequate information about course options,  
17 insufficient academic counseling, the inability to make scheduling decisions, and financial  
18 disincentives to taking certain courses not paid by the school or school district; and

1           WHEREAS, the current system of preparing and transitioning high school students  
2 to postsecondary education is neither coordinated nor financially sustainable; and

3           WHEREAS, the state is not maximizing its limited financial resources, but instead  
4 funds secondary and postsecondary education separately which threatens both secondary and  
5 postsecondary education institutions during economic downturns; and

6           WHEREAS, the state currently funds the costs of dual enrollment above and beyond  
7 the funding provided to schools and colleges through the Minimum Foundation Program and  
8 higher education funding formulas; and

9           WHEREAS, incentives remain to continue operating in silos, rather than to  
10 collaborate, as the costs of secondary and postsecondary education rise; and

11           WHEREAS, students, their families, and the state face significant costs when  
12 students fail to maximize their high school opportunities, particularly during their senior  
13 year, in order to successfully transition to postsecondary education with college credit and  
14 with a greater likelihood of college completion; and

15           WHEREAS, the state can increase students' educational outcomes, save significant  
16 funds for the state and for families, and create a more sustainable educational model by  
17 designing a seamless system of secondary and postsecondary education.

18           THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
19 hereby urges and requests state superintendent of education, commissioner of higher  
20 education, secretary of economic development, and executive director of the Louisiana  
21 Workforce Commission, in consultation with local school systems, college and university  
22 systems, and the Workforce Investment Council, to jointly study and develop  
23 recommendations for creating a more seamless system of secondary and postsecondary  
24 education.

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in developing such recommendations, that the  
26 agencies shall have as their goal to create a more seamless K-16 education system that  
27 enables students to accelerate their completion of a high school diploma and earn  
28 postsecondary education credits and industry-based credentials prior to graduation, thereby  
29 maximizing student opportunity, increasing the likelihood of college persistence, and saving  
30 money for taxpayers and families.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agencies shall prioritize the ability and  
2           fundamental right of students and their families to schedule academically appropriate dual  
3           enrollment courses consistent with their postsecondary goals, consistent high quality across  
4           all dual enrollment courses and providers, and the utilization of all existing public funding  
5           streams without the need for additional state appropriations.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations shall address statewide  
7           needs and priorities, including but not limited to student eligibility, eligible providers and  
8           courses, academic counseling resources, full articulation and transfer of courses,  
9           measurements of success, and projected cost savings for families and taxpayers.

10          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommended plan shall address local and  
11          regional needs and priorities, including but not limited to student access to multiple career  
12          training pathways, pre-existing partnerships between school systems and postsecondary  
13          education institutions, the special needs of rural communities, and logistical issues such as  
14          transportation and the availability of instructors and equipment.

15          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education shall  
16          convene the first meeting of the agencies no later than August 1, 2016.

17          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group's recommendations shall be submitted  
18          by the state superintendent of education to the House and Senate committees on education  
19          not later than 60 days prior to the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

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	DIGEST	
SR 182 Original	2016 Regular Session	Walsworth

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