

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY SENATORS POPE, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FIELDS, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, MORRIS, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER AND WARD

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state superintendent of education to request Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waivers regarding school and district accountability and reporting requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

WHEREAS, Section 8401 of ESEA authorizes state departments of education to request waivers of its provisions; twenty-eight state departments plus the District of Columbia have already requested such waivers for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the 2020-2021 school year has been trying on students, families, teachers, and education officials alike; and

WHEREAS, natural disasters also drastically disrupted elementary and secondary education services in multiple Louisiana parishes, including hurricanes Marco, Laura, Sally, Beta, and Delta in 2020, and the winter storm of February 2021; and

WHEREAS, students across the state have been exposed to different levels of in-person instruction, online instruction, and hybrids of in-person and online instruction; and

WHEREAS, the disruption of education due to COVID-19 and extraordinary weather events during the 2020-2021 school year will likely result in an inaccurate measure of educational outcomes; inaccurate measures ought not be used as a basis for imposing negative consequences on schools, school districts, or teachers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state superintendent of education to seek a waiver from the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act dealing with accountability and school identification requirements, Sections 1111(c)(4) and 1111(d)(1)(C)-(D), and with the report card provisions related to accountability, Section 1111(h), based upon the disruptions of education during the 2020-2021 school year.

**SR NO. 41**

**ENROLLED**

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE