

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS

EDUCATION: Requests that the state Department of Education study and submit a report relative to transparency in education with respect to parental access to instructional materials

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the state Department of Education to study transparency in education
3 with respect to parental access to instructional materials and submit a written report
4 of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation,
5 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not
6 later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2023 Regular Session of the
7 Legislature.

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has demonstrated its commitment to
9 transparency in public education by enacting several laws providing for parental access to
10 instructional materials; and

11 WHEREAS, legislative findings in the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools, as
12 enacted in R.S. 17:406.9, provide that parental involvement is a significant factor in
13 increasing student achievement and that access to student information encourages greater
14 parental involvement; and

15 WHEREAS, this law provides that parents have certain rights, including those
16 relative to examining textbooks, curricula, and supplemental materials; and

17 WHEREAS, in addition to the Parents' Bill of Rights, R.S. 17:355 provides that
18 parents are entitled to access instructional materials, defined as content that conveys the
19 knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or a combination
20 of media for conveying information to a student; any nonsecure test, nonsecure assessment,

1 or survey administered to a student; books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer
2 software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material,
3 information, or services; or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information
4 to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process; and

5 WHEREAS, some school districts make instructional materials easily accessible to
6 parents via online platforms or other means; however, some parents report that their attempts
7 to access instructional materials have been unsuccessful or that the process has been overly
8 burdensome; and

9 WHEREAS, there is strong interest on the part of the legislature and the public
10 regarding how parental access to instructional materials is being handled throughout the state
11 of Louisiana; and

12 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of students, parents, and teachers that parents
13 are able to readily access what children are learning in school in order to further family
14 engagement in the learning process and enrich the educational experience for all.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
16 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to
17 conduct a study relative to transparency in education by surveying each local public school
18 board and the governing authority of each charter school to determine the mechanism
19 provided for parental access to instructional materials and submit a written report of findings
20 and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House
21 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days
22 prior to the beginning of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this study, the department shall
24 give parents and other members of the public an opportunity to provide input in terms of
25 their experiences in seeking to access instructional materials, and this input shall be
26 incorporated into the report.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include best practices among
28 schools and school systems both in Louisiana and other states with regard to educational
29 transparency.

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 145 Original

2022 Regular Session

Harris

Requests that the state Dept. of Education conduct a study of transparency in education with respect to parental access to instructional materials and submit a written report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2023 R.S.