

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY SENATOR CLAITOR

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and determine the most equitable funding methodology to appropriately address the individual needs of children with special needs within the Minimum Foundation Program formula and to incorporate such methodology into the formula as expeditiously as possible.

WHEREAS, the minimum foundation formula provides an extra weight of 1.50 to be applied to the base level of funding to generate additional funds to address the needs of special education students, other than gifted and talented students; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the same weighting factor for every special education student, regardless of the type or degree of exceptionality, does not ensure that each child receives a level of funding that is directly related to the type, cost, or duration of services needed to address his specific needs; and

WHEREAS, use of what is essentially a flat rate of funding for special education students, regardless of the cost or level of services actually provided to the student by the school or other educational provider, is inherently inequitable; and

WHEREAS, this inequity in funding will inevitably leave schools that enroll students with more profound exceptionalities with proportionately fewer resources to address the needs of the special education children who need it most; and

WHEREAS, reason and logic support the use of a range of weights, or use of a cost-based component, within the Minimum Foundation Program formula to generate special education funding that is directly related to the specific needs of each student identified with an exceptionality, to the actual cost of providing the services required to meet the needs of each child, and to the level of services actually provided to each child; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider developing and incorporating a methodology within the MFP formula by which to generate differentiated levels of special education funding aligned with the needs of the individual special needs child.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and determine the most equitable funding methodology to appropriately address the individual needs of children with special needs within the Minimum Foundation Program formula and to incorporate such methodology into the formula as expeditiously as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate and House committees on education not later than March 15, 2013.

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