

1 (3) Parents who choose to send their children to publicly-funded early childhood
2 programs should have clear and actionable information on the quality of the programs
3 available.

4 (4) Providers of publicly-funded early childhood programs should be held
5 accountable for the public monies they receive, but given the autonomy to implement an
6 educational program that promotes and achieves kindergarten readiness without undue
7 regulation.

8 (5) State entities involved in the oversight or provision of early childhood programs
9 should collaborate, set standards of educational achievement for young children that align
10 with standards established for children enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve, and
11 hold providers of publicly-funded early childhood programs accountable without imposing
12 undue regulation on said programs.

13 (6) There are high-quality early childhood programs in this state that can serve as
14 a model for increasing standards of achievement and financial efficiency in publicly-funded
15 early childhood programs.

16 (7) Publicly-funded early childhood programs receive a significant amount of public
17 monies that can and should be maximized in pursuit of high-quality early childhood
18 programs that achieve high levels of kindergarten readiness or progression towards
19 kindergarten readiness, as applicable for the ages of children served.

20 (8) Tax incentives created for the purpose of promoting high-quality early childhood
21 programs should be awarded based on kindergarten readiness, or progression towards
22 kindergarten readiness, as applicable for the ages of children served.

23 (9) A fragmented system of standards, funding, and oversight of the state's publicly-
24 funded early childhood programs serves as a barrier to providing every child with the high-
25 quality services and programs which he deserves and to providing parents with the
26 information needed to make an informed choice when selecting the programs that best fit
27 the needs of their children.

28 WHEREAS, the legislature expressed its intent that “a comprehensive and integrated
29 delivery system for early childhood care and education be created to ensure that every child
30 enters kindergarten healthy and ready to learn”; and

1 WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
2 Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Family Services have worked
3 diligently and collaboratively to implement the provisions of Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular
4 Session of the Legislature, including the integration of standards and expectations across
5 publicly-funded early childhood care and education programs and the support of regional
6 pilot programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the implementation of Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular Session of the
8 Legislature has appropriately focused on increasing the quality of care and education,
9 preparing children to be kindergarten-ready, and honoring family choices; and

10 WHEREAS, it is imperative that all publicly-funded early childhood care and
11 education programs offer a consistent level of quality care and education to families,
12 providing a safe, nurturing environment for children and preparing all students to
13 successfully enter kindergarten; and

14 WHEREAS, the provision of quality care and education is determined, in large part,
15 by the ability of early learning centers to employ capable individuals as caregivers and
16 teachers; and

17 WHEREAS, publicly-funded early childhood care and education programs in
18 Louisiana are not currently funded equitably, contributing to the inability of some early
19 learning centers and programs to meet the state's quality standards and expectations that lead
20 to children being kindergarten-ready; and

21 WHEREAS, the families of approximately 65,000 Louisiana children have expressed
22 their desire and need for quality early childhood care and education, as evidenced by
23 program enrollments and waiting lists; and

24 WHEREAS, the state should make every reasonable attempt to equitably fund family
25 choices to the fullest extent possible and to offer choices of consistent quality as families
26 select publicly-funded early childhood care and education.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and
29 recommend a statewide funding model for the equitable funding and distribution of public
30 funds to support quality early childhood care and education for Louisiana families of

1 children, ages birth to five, requesting such services, no later than sixty days prior to the
2 convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing such a model, the board shall
4 consult with the state’s Early Childhood Advisory Council and the leadership of
5 organizations representing child care, Head Start, public and non-public schools.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state
8 superintendent of 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)]

Leger

HCR No. 61

Requests the State Board of Elementary Education, in consultation with stakeholders, to develop and recommend a statewide funding model for the funding and equitable distribution of public funds to support early childhood care and education no later than 60 days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature.