

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 210

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTEGO, BARRAS, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, HARRISON, HENSGENS, ROBERT JOHNSON, JONES, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, MIGUEZ, MONTUCET, PIERRE, ROBIDEAUX, ST. GERMAIN, AND THIERRY AND SENATOR LAFLEUR

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize state-certified foreign language immersion sites as models of excellence in bilingual and biliterate education and to award five additional points to the school performance score of a school with a state-certified foreign language immersion program for each year the school maintains such certification status.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's economy is enhanced by its citizens' ease in communicating across languages and cultures in order to support students' future careers and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the foreign language immersion education model motivates students to complete rigorous coursework, achieve college benchmarks, and graduate career or college ready, thereby producing citizens who are prepared to interact in an increasingly global workforce; and

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:273.2, requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and implement a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs as a means to provide statewide standards for foreign language immersion programs and assist and support schools and school districts in establishing and maintaining high quality, highly effective foreign language immersion programs; and

WHEREAS, foreign language immersion education programs are the most efficient pathway for second language acquisition in a school setting; and

WHEREAS, the immersion programs produce bilingual and biliterate individuals equipped with the necessary language skills to better function in today's global workforce and economy; and

WHEREAS, foreign language immersion students enrolled in state-certified immersion programs perform as well as and typically score higher than their non-immersion peers on standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, schools with foreign language immersion programs that have earned state certification should be recognized for the enhanced services the programs offer to their students; and

WHEREAS, awarding additional points to the school performance scores of schools with foreign language immersion programs is a strong incentive for more immersion sites to become state-certified and consequently maintain a highly effective immersion pathway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to recognize state-certified foreign language immersion sites as models of excellence in bilingual and biliterate education and to award five additional points to the school performance score of a school with a state-certified foreign language immersion program for each year the school maintains such certification status.

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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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE