

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 160

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend The Center for Literacy and Learning for its leadership in advancing literacy statewide; to commend historic gains in fourth grade literacy rates in Louisiana; and to designate Tuesday, May 13, 2025, as Literacy Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, students who do not read proficiently by the end of the third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school and those who lack basic reading proficiency are nearly six times more likely to leave school without earning a diploma; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia, a specific learning disability that affects as many as one in five individuals, presents a significant barrier to reading success without proper support; and

WHEREAS, literacy is foundational to a student's academic success, long-term opportunity, and personal empowerment; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, seventy-two percent of Louisiana's fourth grade students did not read proficiently, placing the state forty-second in the nation for fourth grade reading achievement; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Louisiana made historic progress by climbing twenty-six places in national rankings to sixteenth in the nation for fourth grade reading, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP); and

WHEREAS, The Center for Literacy and Learning, founded in 1992, has spent thirty-three years implementing evidence-based instructional and coaching practices that improve teaching and increase student learning outcomes from birth to 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Literacy and Learning draws on more than three hundred fifty years of professional education experience, focusing on closing the achievement gap through targeted, high-quality professional development for educators of at-risk students; and

WHEREAS, The Center for Literacy and Learning employs a comprehensive literacy wraparound approach, providing services to educators, families, and communities that support learning both inside and outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, The Center for Literacy and Learning successfully advocated for the creation of the Early Literacy Commission and, in 2023, for the establishment of the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission, both of which are instrumental in shaping the state's literacy policies; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education, The Center for Literacy and Learning launched the Literacy Coaching Program in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, The Center for Literacy and Learning launched the Louisiana pilot program for family engagement in literacy education; and

WHEREAS, improving literacy across Louisiana is vital to building a strong workforce, creating high-quality jobs, and sustaining long-term economic growth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the dedicated work of The Center for Literacy and Learning, celebrate the notable progress in fourth grade literacy scores in Louisiana, and designate Tuesday, May 13, 2025, as Literacy Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to The Center for Literacy and Learning.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE