

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 194

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education to provide de-identified visual acuity screening data collected annually in Louisiana schools from 2018 through the present to qualified independent researchers for the purpose of evaluating longitudinal trends.

WHEREAS, visual acuity screenings are conducted annually in Louisiana schools as part of routine student health assessments; these screenings result in the collection of objective data reflecting changes in student vision over time; and

WHEREAS, the period beginning in 2018 corresponds with significant changes in educational practices, including increased reliance on digital devices for instruction; and

WHEREAS, a longitudinal analysis of visual acuity data may provide valuable insight into trends affecting student health, learning outcomes, and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, independent analysis of de-identified data is a recognized best practice to ensure objectivity, transparency, and scientific integrity; and

WHEREAS, access to such data would assist policymakers, educators, health professionals, and parents in making informed decisions related to student health and educational environments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education to provide de-identified visual acuity screening data collected annually in Louisiana schools from 2018 through the present to qualified independent researchers for the purpose of evaluating longitudinal trends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the data provided shall include, to the extent available and in compliance with state and federal privacy laws, the following:

- (1) Year of screening.
- (2) Grade level or age range of students.
- (3) Visual acuity measurements or screening outcomes.
- (4) Aggregated demographic categories.
- (5) Any standardized screening protocols used.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the data shall be made available to qualified independent researchers, including academic institutions and public interest research organizations, for the purpose of conducting longitudinal analyses of student visual acuity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all data shared pursuant to this Resolution shall be fully de-identified and provided in a manner consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and applicable state privacy protections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health and the state Department of Education are requested to cooperate in facilitating access to the data and to identify any limitations or gaps in the data set that may affect interpretation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings of any completed analyses or studies conducted pursuant to this Resolution be summarized and reported to the legislature, including any observed trends, limitations, and recommendations for further study or policy consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES