

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 156

BY SENATOR BARTHELEMY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study implementation and accountability implications of student nonenrollment determinations.

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:10.1 provides for a school accountability system for public schools and school systems and requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and implement a uniform system to measure and report school and school district performance; and

WHEREAS, current law requires that public school systems be assigned performance scores based on multiple indicators, including student achievement, academic growth, and graduation rates, and uses those scores to classify schools with a letter grade; that schools are annually evaluated, and those identified as low-performing are subject to interventions and improvement requirements; and

WHEREAS, according to the state Department of Education, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, schools and districts will be measured using a simple, easy-to-understand scorecard built around three expectations for every student: Grow: students should make meaningful academic progress every year; Achieve: students should reach proficiency in key subjects; and Thrive: students should graduate on time and be prepared for college, career, or service; this system replaces an outdated model that had become too complex, difficult to explain, and disconnected from Louisiana's long-term goals for student readiness; and

WHEREAS, today there is no uniform and standardized process for traditional public school systems to determine and document when a student is nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts; and

WHEREAS, when a student is determined to be nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts, the student is counted as enrolled for purposes of state accountability systems as of the date of determination, which negatively affects the school and school district's performance; and

WHEREAS, since Louisiana has adopted a revised school accountability system that raises expectations for students, simplifies how school performance is measured, and makes it easier for families and the public to understand how schools are preparing students for life after graduation, it is only fitting that the state Department of Education study implementation and accountability implications of student nonenrollment determinations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the state Department of Education study implementation and accountability implications of student nonenrollment determinations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Establishment of a uniform and standardized process for traditional public school systems to determine and document when a student is nonenrolled due to incarceration or unknown whereabouts.

(2) A process comprised of documented, reasonable, and good-faith efforts to locate and verify the student's enrollment status, and to specify minimum documentation requirements, timelines, and verification procedures to ensure consistency and accuracy across school systems.

(3) Effects associated with counting a student determined to be nonenrolled for purposes of state accountability systems as of the date of determination on schools and school districts after a good-faith effort is made to locate and verify the student's enrollment status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall submit a written report of the findings of the study, and a summary of the statistics and data required for the conduct of the study, to the Senate Committee on Education not later than February 15, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to superintendent of the state Department of Education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE