

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the K-12 Student Success Pathways Task Force to study and make recommendations on a statewide plan for advising students on career and academic pathways in K-12 public schools.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that, in order for students to achieve meaningful careers after high school, they must acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success in their chosen career paths during their elementary and secondary education years; and

WHEREAS, the preparation of students for meaningful careers is a top priority of the state; and

WHEREAS, research shows that early and consistent academic and career counseling in K-12 schools helps more students graduate, continue their education, and enter the workforce prepared; and

WHEREAS, career counseling in elementary and high school helps students connect their schoolwork to future career and academic goals; and

WHEREAS, studies confirm that strong academic and career counseling programs are key to helping students prepare for meaningful jobs that also meet the state's workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, workforce data shows that many students graduate without fully developed academic or career plans, thereby highlighting gaps between school career counseling systems, workforce needs, and the state's education programs; and

WHEREAS, access to academic and career counseling varies across Louisiana, leaving some students without the guidance they need; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's long-term economic growth depends on preparing students to be ready for both college and careers; therefore, it is important to create a coordinated statewide advisory system that supports all students' academic and career goals; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has made progress in strengthening college and career readiness through efforts such as counselor training, the Jump Start and Fast Forward programs, and the Individual Graduation Plan, all of which give students opportunities to earn credentials, gain work experience, and plan for their futures; and

WHEREAS, as Louisiana continues to grow economically and expand its industries, it is important to ensure that students are prepared to meet the needs of both existing and emerging jobs, and that education and workforce systems work together to support these opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the K-12 Student Success Pathways Task Force to study state public school programs that advise students on career and academic pathways in K-12 public schools and to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than January 21, 2027, for an interim report and no later than January 21, 2028, for the final report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include consideration of all of the following:

(1) Examine the ideal student and family engagement progression plan, study how career exploration, Individual Graduation Plans, and college planning are implemented across K-12 schools, and identify best practices and areas for improvement.

(2) Review relevant Louisiana laws, assess their implementation, identify barriers, and consider best practices from other states.

(3) Evaluate career counseling staffing models to ensure schools can meet student needs, including the use of external partners, so counselors can effectively support students' academic and career development.

(4) Identify barriers to effective career counseling staffing and recommend solutions to ensure all students have access to quality career counseling services.

(5) Develop recommendations for a statewide strategy that aligns career counseling with workforce and college goals to prepare all students for success after high school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.

(2) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or her designee.

(3) The state superintendent of education, or his designee, who will serve as chairman.

(4) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.

(5) The secretary of Louisiana Works, or her designee.

(6) The executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, or her designee.

(7) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, or his designee.

(8) One member appointed by the governor.

(9) The chairman of the Louisiana School Counselors Association, or his designee.

(10) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, or his designee.

(11) The executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, or his designee.

(12) The executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association, or her designee.

(13) The president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, or his designee.

(14) The chief executive officer of Leaders for a Better Louisiana, or his designee.

(15) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council, or his designee.

(16) The chief executive officer of YouthForce NOLA, or her designee.

(17) One member who is a parent of a public high school student, appointed by the state superintendent of education.

(18) One member who is a current public high school student, appointed by the state

superintendent of education.

(19) One member who is a current public high school student, appointed by the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

(20) The executive director of Louisiana Kids Matter, or his designee.

(21) The chairman of Louisiana Associated Builders and Contractors, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees to the task force to the state superintendent of education, or his designee, no later than July 15, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 1, 2026, at the call of state superintendent of education, or his designee. The task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 1, 2026, at the call of the chairman and shall meet at least quarterly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting this study the task force may request staff support from the state superintendent of education, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its final report or January 21, 2028, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education, the commissioner of higher education, the secretary of Louisiana Works, the executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the governor, the chair of the Louisiana School Counselors Association, the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, the executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the executive director of the Louisiana

School Boards Association, the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the chief executive officer of Leaders for a Better Louisiana, the president of the Public Affairs Research Council, the president of YouthForce NOLA, and the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES