

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 243

BY SENATOR JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to conduct a study regarding the number of public school systems that provide duty-free lunch periods to teachers who are actively engaged in the instruction and supervision of students and the method by which the systems provide the duty-free lunch periods.

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:434 requires each public school system to provide each teacher who is actively engaged in the instruction and supervision of students a duty-free lunch period and a duty-free planning period; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:434 predicates the requirement to provide duty-free lunch and planning periods on the appropriation of state funds; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the law in 1988, state funding has not been appropriated for the duty-free lunch and planning periods; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of our teachers work an eight-hour day without an uninterrupted break to eat or use the restroom; and

WHEREAS, these working conditions may place a toll on the health of our teachers; and

WHEREAS, some school districts have prioritized the health and well-being of their teachers by granting duty-free lunch and planning periods, even without specific state funding being provided; and

WHEREAS, information relative to the number of school systems that offer duty-free lunch periods, the method by which those districts utilize personnel to provide the duty-free lunch periods, and the costs borne by the systems for offering the lunch periods may assist other systems in providing duty-free lunch periods for their teachers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to conduct a study regarding the number of public school systems that provide duty-free lunch periods to teachers who are actively engaged in the instruction and supervision of students and the method by which the systems provide the duty-free lunch periods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department shall submit a report of any findings and conclusions to the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE