

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 261

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to conduct a study relative to the screening and identification of students with respect to dyslexia and to submit a report to the House Committee on Education and the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, 72% of Louisiana's fourth grade students do not read proficiently, and dyslexia is a specific learning disability that affects as many as one in five people; and

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 have not mastered at least a basic level of reading proficiency are nearly six times as likely to leave school without earning a diploma; and

WHEREAS, screening students and identifying those who are at risk for dyslexia in the early grades is a strategy that can prevent cumulative challenges that coexist and emerge when students are identified in later grades; and

WHEREAS, the key to helping students at risk for dyslexia is early intervention, which can reduce the risk from 20% to below 5% based on the quality and intensity of the instruction; and

WHEREAS, less than one percent of Louisiana students are identified as being at risk for dyslexia despite the aforementioned national statistics noting that it affects as many as one in five people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to conduct a study relative to the screening and identification of students with respect to dyslexia and to submit a report to the House Committee on Education and the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the department shall recognize that many students at risk of dyslexia are not being identified properly, analyze the causes and ramifications of this lack of accurate identification, and recommend potential remedies.

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES