

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

STUDENTS. Requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of establishing a program in colleges of education that offers college credit to future teachers who tutor students in elementary and secondary schools in poverty stricken areas of the state.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of establishing a program  
3 at certain public colleges and universities that will allow students in colleges of  
4 education to earn college credit for providing tutoring and study skills assistance to  
5 students in elementary and secondary schools situated in poverty stricken areas of  
6 the state where such services are not readily available.

7 WHEREAS, improving academic outcomes and affording children the opportunity  
8 to reach their potential and succeed in society is a responsibility of government and each  
9 educational institution, and students who do not develop the minimum foundation of skills  
10 necessary to learn are at risk of dropping out of school and being unemployed or  
11 underemployed as adults; and

12 WHEREAS, a coordinated program to improve student achievement in the most  
13 impoverished areas of Louisiana is a means through which the state might increase the  
14 likelihood of student academic success, reduce the instances of drop outs, and ultimately lift  
15 our poor out of poverty; and

16 WHEREAS, according to statistics reported by the United States Census Bureau in  
17 2008, more than seventeen and a half percent of Louisiana's population lives below the  
18 poverty level, compared to the national average of approximately thirteen percent; and

1           WHEREAS, the *2009 Kids Count Data Book on Louisiana's Children* indicates that  
2 a family's income has a tremendous impact on a child's overall well-being, and research  
3 shows that "experiencing poverty during early childhood is closely correlated with poorer  
4 educational outcomes in later years; and

5           WHEREAS, Louisiana has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country,  
6 second only to Mississippi; and

7           WHEREAS, although child poverty rates vary widely across Louisiana, the parishes  
8 with the highest poverty rates are located in the northeastern part of the state, including the  
9 parishes of East Carroll (fifty-six percent), Morehouse (fifty-one percent), Tensas (fifty  
10 percent), Madison (forty-nine percent), Franklin (forty-six percent), and Concordia (forty-  
11 five percent); and

12           WHEREAS, the academic achievement of the neediest children in the state may be  
13 positively impacted by a tutoring program which utilizes future teachers enrolled in colleges  
14 of education within universities located in areas of the state where impoverished children do  
15 not have access to such tutoring services; and

16           WHEREAS, providing such additional education support opportunities will not only  
17 offer valuable outreach to the community but should also benefit students by improving their  
18 understanding of course material and test scores, as well as improving personal motivation  
19 and attitudes toward school work; and

20           WHEREAS, future teachers will also benefit through participation in such a program  
21 by gaining practical experience in individualized instruction, including experience with  
22 lesson planning, communication, and classroom management prior to entering student  
23 teaching in a classroom setting; and

24           WHEREAS, access to equitable educational opportunities for all children is a valid  
25 predictor of future success and such access will enable at-risk students to benefit from these  
26 opportunities by leaving poverty behind to become productive workers and contributing  
27 members of society.

28           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
29 does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of establishing a  
30 program at certain public colleges and universities that will allow students in colleges of

1 education to earn college credit for providing tutoring and study skills assistance to students  
2 in elementary and secondary schools situated in poverty stricken areas of the state where  
3 such services are not readily available.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
5 requests the Board of Regents to submit a written report of its findings and  
6 recommendations, together with any specific proposals for legislation, to the Senate  
7 Committee on Education, not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular  
8 Session of the Legislature.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
10 commissioner of higher education.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sherri H. Breaux.

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DIGEST

Thompson

SR No.

Requests Board of Regents to study the feasibility of establishing a program at certain public colleges and universities that will allow students in colleges of education to earn college credit for providing tutoring and study skills assistance to students in elementary and secondary schools situated in poverty stricken areas of the state where such services are not readily available.

Further requests the Board of Regents to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education not later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the 2011 R.S.