

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 195

BY SENATOR APPEL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education to identify the technology requirements necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular Session in early learning centers, including the cost per classroom, and the costs to purchase necessary software and equipment, obtain any Internet access, secure ongoing maintenance, and to train teachers on the use of the technology.

WHEREAS, Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular Session declared that in order to significantly improve outcomes at all levels of the state's educational system, it is imperative that standards for, and expectations of, our early childhood programs be raised to levels that will promote kindergarten readiness and sustain lifelong learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, Act No. 3, which includes publicly funded prekindergarten classes in public elementary schools and early learning centers in the community, directed the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a comprehensive and integrated network through which to manage and oversee all programs funded through state or federal resources that provide early childhood care or educational services; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of Education, and the Department of Children and Family Services have worked collaboratively to implement the provisions of Act No. 3, including the integration of standards and expectations across publicly funded early childhood care and education programs in schools and the community and the support of regional pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Act No. 3 has appropriately focused on increasing the quality of care and education across settings, preparing children to be kindergarten-ready, and honoring family choices; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that all publicly funded early childhood care and education programs offer a consistent level of quality care and education to families, thereby providing a safe, nurturing environment for children and preparing all students to successfully enter kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, through the regional pilot programs, it has become apparent that the use of technology by teachers is an integral part of the provision of high quality early care and education and is critical to the success of Act No. 3 implementation; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 622 of the 2014 Regular Session provides for the development and implementation of a statewide educational technology plan to ensure that every public elementary and secondary school has the infrastructure and capacity necessary to provide a high quality, digital instructional environment; and

WHEREAS, prekindergarten classrooms in schools will be included in the technology plan as provided in Senate Bill No. 622, but early learning centers in the community will not; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 of the 2014 Regular Session requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a statewide model for the equitable distribution of public funds for quality early childhood care and education for Louisiana children, ages birth to five, whose families request such services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education to identify the technology requirements necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of Act No. 3 of the 2012 Regular Session in early learning centers, including cost per classroom, and the cost to purchase necessary software and equipment, obtain any Internet access, secure ongoing maintenance, and to train teachers on the use of the technology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the technology and training costs for early learning centers and the cost per early learning center classroom be included in the statewide model for funding of, and the equitable distribution of public funds for, quality early childhood care and education for Louisiana children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE