

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107

Adopted in Senate April 28, 2008

Secretary of the Senate

Adopted in Assembly May 22, 2008

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This resolution was received by the Secretary of State this
____ day of _____, 2008, at ____ o'clock ____M.

Deputy Secretary of State

RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to Educational Options Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 107, Steinberg. Educational Options Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May 2008 as Educational Options Month and would encourage all Californians to work together to ensure the future success of pupils participating in educational options in the state.

WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes that because pupils learn in a variety of ways, the state's educational system must strive to meet the needs of its entire diverse pupil population by supporting educational options and the sustainability of these programs; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Senate Bill 445 was enacted (Ch. 448, Stats. of 1975), declaring the purpose of educational options and authorizing the governing boards of school districts and county offices of education to establish and maintain alternative schools and programs for the purpose of, among other things, serving at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, Educational options include continuation high schools, magnet programs, charter schools, independent study, adult education, opportunity programs, community day schools, pregnant minor programs, county community schools, juvenile court schools, youth authority, and alternative schools, representing over 750,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Educational options, as part of the state's educational system, maximize learning opportunities for pupils who still need to pass the California High School Exit Exam or are deficient in credits, pregnant or parenting, homeless, recovered dropouts, or in some other way classified as "at risk," to develop the positive values and life skills of self-reliance, initiative, resourcefulness, creativity, and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Educational options often place an emphasis on intensive guidance services to meet the special needs of pupils with a program that will lead to completion with a diploma; and

WHEREAS, Educational options provide a choice of educational pathways in an effort to confront educational and social challenges, to meet the needs of all pupils, and to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to make appropriate postsecondary choices, including, but not limited to, higher education, technical and career training, and the military; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature recognizes the high level of professionalism and specialized training required of a successful educational options educator in order to provide academic and career instruction, character development, and educational experiences that lead to successful citizenship, employment, and higher education; and

WHEREAS, All educators and administrators providing instruction to pupils participating in educational options programs are committed to providing a supportive learning environment that is best suited to the academic, personal, and social needs of the pupils, as well as advocating for a quality education as a means to inspire every pupil to become a self-motivated, responsible learner; and

WHEREAS, Educational options programs and schools issue diplomas to pupils and must fulfill the same state and federal requirements as all traditional schools, including alignment to the California State Content Standards, offering a rigorous curriculum that includes all core academic subjects, as well as participating in all state-mandated testing programs such as the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program and the California High School Exit Exam; and

WHEREAS, Educational options programs and schools are alternative places to learn, not an alternative to learning; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of May 2008 as Educational Options Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to work together to ensure the future success of every pupil participating in educational options in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Attest:

Secretary of State