

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility of requiring compulsory kindergarten attendance.

WHEREAS, the well-documented success of the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program seems to indicate a possible need to fill a gap in the state's early childhood education - the lack of compulsory attendance for kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, the skills and competencies now expected of kindergarten students lead many educators to consider kindergarten to be the true first grade of school; and

WHEREAS, although Louisiana law requires each city, parish, and other local public school system to offer a full-day of kindergarten instruction, compulsory attendance is not required until a child reaches the age of seven and must enroll in the first grade; and

WHEREAS, thirty-two states in the United States and thirteen out of the sixteen member states of the Southern Regional Education Board require school attendance for children below the age of seven; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Early Education Research found that first-graders who do not go to kindergarten are typically behind their peers in their academic and social development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the feasibility of requiring compulsory kindergarten attendance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall 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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES