



fact sheet

Paper Reduction Resolution

OVERVIEW:

During the 2007 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session, the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL) joined in partnership with Senator Jerry Theunissen and Representative Charles McDonald to sponsor a resolution directing the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to come up with a plan to reduce the amount of paperwork that teachers must complete.

HCR 180 passed through the House and Senate in rapid fashion and was filed with the Louisiana Secretary of State. The Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE) must now devise ways to reduce the amount of excessive paperwork by 20% by the year 2010-2011.

LEGISLATION:

ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2007

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCDONALD AND WALSWORTH AND SENATOR THEUNISSEN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to formulate, develop, adopt, and implement a paperwork reduction and simplification plan that will reduce paperwork unrelated to instruction that is required by the board and by the state Department of Education from teachers, school administrative personnel, and school boards by twenty percent by not later than the start of the 2010-2011 school year and to provide for a written report to the House and Senate committees on education prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session relative to the status of the plan.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that student academic success in elementary and secondary schools is tied in great measure to having highly qualified teachers in all classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the legislature further recognizes that being in a supportive work environment that is conducive to teaching and learning and that is unfettered by excessive

paperwork requirements can greatly influence in a positive manner the retention of a highly qualified teaching staff; and

WHEREAS, numerous hours are required for developing effective lesson plans, making and grading homework assignments, meeting with parents, and monitoring the progress of students; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana has reported that in a recent association survey to which three hundred forty Louisiana public school teachers responded, sixty-seven percent indicated they have an hour or less of instructional planning time daily; and

WHEREAS, seventy-three percent of responding teachers said that instructional planning time was often interrupted with other school responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the association found that eighty-four percent of survey respondents said that since the year 2000, the amount of paperwork required of a teacher that is unrelated to instruction has increased; and

WHEREAS, the association found further that fifty-six percent of the survey respondents reported that they have considered leaving the teaching profession because of such paperwork requirements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to formulate, develop, adopt, and implement a paperwork reduction and simplification plan that will reduce paperwork unrelated to instruction that is required by the board and by the state Department of Education from teachers, school administrative personnel, and school boards by twenty percent by not later than the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board shall report in writing to the House and Senate committees on education on the status of the board's paperwork reduction and simplification plan by not later than forty-five days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state superintendent of education.