

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1023

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the investment of the South Dakota taxpayers in the state's K-12 public education system and the need for accountability to the taxpayers for that investment.

WHEREAS, the future economic development and vitality of South Dakota as outlined in the Governor's 2010 Initiative begins with the education of South Dakota's children; and

WHEREAS, approximately nine hundred million dollars of local, county, state, and federal revenue is currently invested in education in this state for fiscal year 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature is authorizing additional funding for fiscal year 2005 that includes an inflationary increase of over five million dollars, the reinvestment of over three million dollars not used in the state aid formula due to declining enrollments, a supplemental allocation of one million eight hundred thousand dollars, and an increase of one million five hundred thousand dollars in the state aid formula for special education; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature in 2001 proposed to the electors an amendment to the South Dakota Constitution which created the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund that now holds the funds awarded to the state through the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, and the Legislature has authorized the distribution of over seven million dollars of earnings from that fund to the state's school districts in fiscal year 2005; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota's unparalleled commitment to education technology will continue in fiscal year 2005 with an appropriation of over eight million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the value of increased federal funding for general education which has grown seventy percent since the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and the value of the increased federal funding for special education which has grown by almost sixty-nine percent during that same period; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota has received a Reading First grant worth fourteen million five hundred thousand dollars over six years that will help students in the greatest need for reading assistance, and an Improving Teacher Quality grant that provides thirteen million dollars to fund the South Dakota Every Teacher program that supports teacher excellence and helps ensure there is a highly qualified teacher in every classroom in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized two million two hundred thousand dollars for the South Dakota Reads program, a professional development reading program for elementary and special education teachers; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized one million nine hundred thousand dollars in funding for the South Dakota opportunity scholarship program that will reward high achieving South Dakota high school graduates who attend South Dakota colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized five hundred thousand dollars for the creation of regional educational service agencies to facilitate the efficient delivery of education resources to the state's school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized five hundred thousand dollars to enhance and create new opportunities in secondary career and technical education programs by allowing for the support of alternative delivery systems, the development of closer alliances to postsecondary education and business and industry, and the development of curriculum to address the current needs of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature identifies ensuring continuous measurable improvement in student achievement for every child, ensuring that every South Dakota student completes high school prepared for postsecondary education or his or her life's work, and actively involving parents in the academic lives of their children as a few of the important goals, among many, for the state's system of public education:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the taxpayers of South Dakota be recognized for their investment in education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature work cooperatively with the Department of Education and the Board of Education to be accountable to the taxpayers for their investment by creating additional goals and performance standards that lead to continuous improvement in the achievement of our students in this state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council provide guidance to the Department of Education in the development of the content and format of the annual written evaluation of educational progress that the department is required to submit to the Legislature and to the public pursuant to § 13-3-51.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

March 15, 2004
March 15, 2004

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate