

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 63

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to education.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 24, 2008.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 88, Denham. Education: 21st century skills.

This measure would support the California education system in preparing pupils to succeed and prosper in life, in school, and on the job, and would urge education and business leaders to work together to create an education system that better prepares today's pupils for tomorrow's workplace.

WHEREAS, The Partnership for 21st Century Skills brings together business leaders, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education, and to provide tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change; and

WHEREAS, Businesses are confronted daily with the need for talented and highly trained employees to compete effectively in the global economy. To stay competitive in a global economy, the United States must produce a nation of critical thinkers and problem solvers who have knowledge of other regions of the world, languages, and cultures to respond to the challenges of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Pupils must master not only core subjects such as mathematics, English, and science to cope with the work and life demands of the new economy, but also must apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world environment by building a bridge from their core subjects by thinking critically, analyzing information, comprehending new ideas, communicating, collaborating in teams, and solving problems all in the context of modern life. These skills are 21st century skills; and

WHEREAS, It is the mission of the partnership to bring 21st century skills to every child in the United States by serving as a catalyst for change in teaching, learning, and assessment. In order to accomplish this mission, the partnership has taken action to help education stakeholders lay the foundation for 21st century education. The partnership has developed relationships to help states build an agenda and implementation plan to support the development of a 21st century education environment. The partnership's goal is to work with key states to create a well-aligned education system where curriculum standards, assessments, and classroom practice support the development of 21st century skills; and

WHEREAS, As the United States struggles to keep high school education rigorous and meaningful, the California education system fully and

strategically should integrate 21st century knowledge, skills, and assessment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature supports the California education system in preparing pupils to succeed and prosper in life, in school, and on the job and to ensure that America remains competitive in today's global, knowledge-based economy; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the intent of the Legislature to spark dialogue among local community and state leaders as they work to bridge the gap between the knowledge and skills pupils are acquiring in schools and those needed to succeed in the increasingly global, technology-infused world; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges education and business leaders to work together to create an education system that better prepares today's pupils for tomorrow's workplace; and be it further

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