

House Concurrent Resolution No. 19

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2480L.011

1 **Whereas**, service learning promotes skills that are needed in a twenty-first century
2 economy, such as collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking; and
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4 **Whereas**, the Missouri Assessment Program requires students to be able to think
5 critically to solve real-world problems, which can be a challenge to present in a typical classroom
6 setting; and
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8 **Whereas**, students who engage in service learning show a stronger attachment to
9 their communities, thereby strengthening the economic base, especially in rural areas that tend
10 to lose their young people upon graduation; and
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12 **Whereas**, service learning demonstrates particular effectiveness with special
13 education and alternative school students, giving such students a chance to succeed in and
14 beyond the classroom; and
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16 **Whereas**, service learning supports character-building, and both the State of
17 Missouri and the Federal Government promote character education; and
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19 **Whereas**, the President of the United States has called upon all Americans to serve
20 their country by giving 4,000 hours of service over a lifetime; and
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22 **Whereas**, school districts sometimes are concerned that service learning is not
23 explicitly permitted as a means of earning credit towards graduation, and having explicit

24 permission and guidance would provide a measure of assurance for them; and
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26 **Whereas**, Iowa and other states have adopted service-learning measures. More
27 than 60% of all public schools arrange or require community service, with the percentage of high
28 schools rising to more than 80%; and
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30 **Whereas**, service learning is not isolated instances of volunteerism, but is instead
31 a coordinated effort to link academic curricula and learning objectives with community service:
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33 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
34 Representatives of the Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
35 concurring therein, hereby urge the State Board of Education to encourage the adoption of
36 service-learning programs and projects among school districts to foster academic achievement,
37 civic engagement, and character development; and
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39 **Be it further resolved** that the members of the General Assembly encourage
40 the State Board of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts that implement
41 service learning programs and projects in locating, leveraging, and utilizing alternative financial
42 resources that will assist teachers desiring to receive training in developing and administering
43 service learning programs or projects; and
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45 **Be it further resolved** that the member of the General Assembly encourage
46 local boards of education that maintain high schools to include service-learning as part of any
47 course contributing to the satisfaction of credits necessary for high school graduation and to use
48 service-learning as an instructional strategy at any grade level to address appropriate areas of
49 current state educational standards for student knowledge and performance; and
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51 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
52 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the State
53 Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.