

By: Senator(s) White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 560

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SCHOLASTIC GULF COAST
2 RECOVERY INITIATIVE AND THANKING THESE CITIZENS FOR THEIR
3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ASSISTING THE RECOVERY OF SCHOOLS IN THE
4 AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA.

5 WHEREAS, when any type of tragedy strikes a school, the
6 community's ecology is affected. The learning system is
7 disrupted. During last year's catastrophic hurricane season,
8 despite the fact that schools worked against incredible odds to
9 deploy their emergency response plans, and acknowledging the
10 incredible progress made by many districts over the past nine
11 months, the infrastructure of many schools is critically weak and
12 major hindrances to learning exist; and

13 WHEREAS, by developing comprehensive, research-based
14 curriculum and training for school leaders and educators, and by
15 developing recovery resource tools for children, the Scholastic
16 Gulf Coast Recovery Initiative, the global children's publishing,
17 education and media company, has started an ongoing commitment to
18 supporting the restoration of the learning infrastructure on the
19 Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Scholastic Gulf Coast Recovery
20 Initiative is assisting schools facilitate learning recovery; and

21 WHEREAS, it is critical for administrators and educators to
22 be fully prepared to address the educational/learning recovery
23 needs of schools before a disaster strikes. As part of that
24 preparation it is important for educational leaders to understand
25 and how to foster high-performance learning cultures where
26 students have the resources and structures needed to achieve
27 academically and socially. It is also essential for leaders to
28 receive professional development around how to promote and sustain

29 such learning environments. After a disaster or crisis situation,
30 children need emotional and mental support resources to facilitate
31 recovery; and

32 WHEREAS, the Scholastic Gulf Coast Recovery Initiative is
33 assisting leaders and educators prepare for disasters by looking
34 at models for reducing barriers to learning. The Scholastic
35 Initiative will also help leaders understand the importance of,
36 and how to put in practice, the establishment and maintenance of
37 external community relationships and networks that can sustain
38 student achievement before and after a disaster or disruption of
39 the learning community. The Scholastic Initiative will also
40 provide support for children affected by disasters in the form of
41 books and other therapeutic materials; and

42 WHEREAS, Scholastic Initiative has provided direct in-kind
43 support for educational recovery in Louisiana, Mississippi,
44 Alabama, Florida and Texas. Book donations are coordinated
45 through nonprofit agencies serving the regions. The company is
46 well on its way of fulfilling its pledge to provide a half-million
47 dollars' worth of books and reference material to Gulf Coast
48 communities; and

49 WHEREAS, in Mississippi, books have been donated to schools
50 through organizations that partner with Kids in Distressed
51 Situations (KIDS), a national nonprofit organization. Schools in
52 Bay St. Louis, Biloxi and Ocean Springs were served as part of
53 this effort; and

54 WHEREAS, in an effort to help school libraries in the Gulf
55 Coast region, "Weekend Today" joined forces with Scholastic
56 Initiative, to launch "Today Turns the Page: A Book Drive for the
57 Gulf Coast." Thanks to the generosity of "Weekend Today" viewers,
58 at least six schools in the Gulf Coast will be able to rebuild
59 their school libraries, and get the right books into the hands of
60 students; and

61 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
62 sustained recovery and restoration of the learning infrastructure
63 which has been provided by these corporate citizens and the
64 generosity of individuals who have assisted them in the best
65 practices for total school recovery:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby commend the Scholastic Gulf Coast Recovery Initiative
69 and thank these corporate citizens and the individuals working
70 with Scholastic Initiative for their accomplishments in assisting
71 the total recovery of schools in the aftermath of the devastation
72 of Hurricane Katrina, and extend the best wishes of the
73 Legislature for the future success of this rebuilding effort.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
75 Mr. Walter Watts, representing the Scholastic Gulf Coast Recovery
76 Initiative, and be forwarded to the State Board of Education and
77 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.