

By Senator Flores

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the invaluable contribution of digital learning to improved student success and expressing gratitude to parents, teachers, and digital learning providers for embracing digital learning in order to better the educational opportunities of students in this state.

WHEREAS, education in the digital age must provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in college and in challenging 21st century careers, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Assessment for Educational Progress, a third of fourth graders in America, and 47 percent of fourth graders in this state, don't read on grade level, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Governors Association, more than 1 million students in America don't earn a high school diploma, and

WHEREAS, increased demand for skilled workers, a shortage of effective educators, and decreasing state revenues are obstacles to providing a high-quality education, and

WHEREAS, digital learning can expand access to rigorous and relevant curriculum with highly effective instructors, regardless of where students reside, and

WHEREAS, digital learning can extend the reach of highly effective teachers in high-demand subjects, such as science and math, and

WHEREAS, digital learning can offer a cost-effective approach to providing a high-quality education, and

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30 WHEREAS, digital learning can customize education to allow
31 students to advance at their own pace, to globally expand the
32 body of knowledge that a student is able to access, better
33 prepare students for college and the world of work, and to
34 provide students access to real-world instruction, and

35 WHEREAS, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and former West
36 Virginia Governor Bob Wise convened the Digital Learning
37 Council, a diverse group of national leaders in education,
38 technology, government, business, and think tanks, to develop
39 state-level policies that harness the power of technology to
40 ensure that each and every student receives a high-quality
41 education, and

42 WHEREAS, the Digital Learning Council developed 10 Elements
43 of High Quality Digital Learning, which provides the framework
44 to transform education for the digital age, and

45 WHEREAS, Digital Learning Now! is a national effort to
46 raise awareness of the benefits of digital learning to improve
47 student outcomes, and

48 WHEREAS, the Sunshine State leads the nation in
49 transforming education for the digital age in a manner
50 accountable to all Floridians, and

51 WHEREAS, Florida is one of the only states in the nation to
52 provide all students, from kindergarten through 12th grade, with
53 a robust offering of digital learning options, including the
54 nationally recognized Florida Virtual School, and

55 WHEREAS, February 1, 2012, is being recognized nationally
56 as "Digital Learning Day" in order to raise awareness of the
57 transformational power of digital learning and to encourage
58 policymakers to put the needs of the student first by expanding

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59 digital learning opportunities, free of the restrictions of
60 time, place, and pace, NOW, THEREFORE,

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62 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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64 That the members of the Senate recognize digital learning
65 and its contribution to improving student preparedness for
66 postsecondary education and 21st century careers, and reaffirm
67 the Senate's continued commitment to expanding digital learning
68 for the benefit of students and all Floridians.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution, with
70 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Florida
71 Virtual School, school district virtual instruction programs,
72 and approved digital learning providers as a tangible token of
73 the sentiments of the Florida Senate.