



SR0822

LRB104 22072 RMO 38210 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Superintendent Craig Benes on the occasion of his
4 retirement from Itasca School District 10; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Benes earned a Master of Science in Applied
6 Family and Child Studies/Family Therapy from Northern Illinois
7 University, a Master of Science in Special Education from
8 Northeastern University Chicago, a post-graduate Certificate
9 of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Administration and Supervision
10 through the New Leaders program, and a superintendent
11 endorsement from Concordia University; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Benes served as a special education teacher,
13 curriculum writer, and assistant principal before becoming
14 principal of Talcott Fine Arts and Museum Academy, where he
15 guided the school through six consecutive years of improvement
16 in student attendance and Illinois Standards Achievement Test
17 (ISAT) composite scores while fostering a culture of
18 professional development for staff; he continued to serve
19 Chicago Public Schools as a chief area officer (CAO),
20 supervising a portfolio of more than 30 schools that
21 demonstrated academic growth every year and devoting time to
22 the district's Senior Leadership Cabinet; and

1 WHEREAS, Since 2015, Mr. Benes has served as
2 superintendent of Itasca School District 10, leading with
3 innovation and dedication to student success; he spearheaded
4 the comprehensive update of all core curriculums, ensuring
5 alignment with research-based practices and academic
6 standards; he championed the expansion to full-day
7 kindergarten and made significant capital investments across
8 the district, including the building addition at Raymond
9 Benson Primary School, upgrades to heating, ventilation, and
10 air conditioning systems at F.E. Peacock Junior High School,
11 and revitalization of the libraries at Elmer H. Franzen
12 Intermediate School and Raymond Benson Primary School; he has
13 successfully led the district through challenging times, such
14 as the COVID-19 pandemic; and

15 WHEREAS, Beyond the classroom, Mr. Benes has continually
16 supported robust programs in fine arts, world languages, and
17 athletics, affirming the district's dedication to developing
18 the whole child; students have also benefited from a wealth of
19 field-learning opportunities during his tenure, expanding
20 their education far beyond school walls; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Benes has guided Itasca School District 10
22 through years of balanced budgets and responsible labor
23 contracts, maintaining financial stability while meeting the
24 evolving needs of staff and students; his leadership has been

1 marked by strong partnerships with all local taxing bodies,
2 fostering collaboration that has strengthened not only the
3 schools but the entire community; and

4 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Mr. Benes, Itasca School
5 District 10 has achieved the rare feat of earning three
6 "exemplary" designations from the Illinois State Board of
7 Education; he received the Guiding Light Award for his
8 visionary leadership and tireless advocacy for educational
9 excellence in 2025; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Benes is proud to be part of a family of
11 educators; his wife is a kindergarten teacher, his son is a
12 high school physical education teacher, and his other children
13 are studying to become a teacher and a nurse; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate
16 Superintendent Craig Benes on his retirement from Itasca
17 School District 10, and we thank him for his commitment to
18 education and to the State of Illinois; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Mr. Benes as an expression of our esteem and
21 respect.