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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The current measure of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB Act) does not provide for any accounting of students who make significant progress but not enough progress to meet the standard; these students are classified as not succeeding, when, in actuality, in many instances they have progressed beyond a year's growth; and

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WHEREAS, The measuring of AYP at 47.5% leaves many children behind; and

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WHEREAS, Using an index to calculate AYP has the potential to address some of the flaws in the NCLB Act; and

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WHEREAS, An index that measures student progress allows schools to show movement from one performance level to the next and credits improvement in student achievement across different performance levels; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to a school being sanctioned under the NCLB Act, a pre-AYP classification should be used to determine if the school is successful; and

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WHEREAS, The pre-AYP classification would be determined by looking at the students as individuals, with the understanding that individuals achieve at different rates; because individual students do make progress, an individual student's progress would be measured to determine if there had been added value to his or her education; and

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WHEREAS, This measure would include all students: Regular Education students, Special Education students, Limited English Proficient students, and other subgroups; and

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1           WHEREAS, This measure would provide accountability to the  
2 NCLB Act and, at the same time, provide for a more precise  
3 measure of the added value of education that the school has  
4 provided; and

5           WHEREAS, Not only will this measure provide schools with a  
6 more accurate level of their progress, but it would also  
7 provide more specific and accurate data needed to move more  
8 students toward the AYP standard; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we urge the U.S. Department of Education to create a pre-AYP  
12 classification; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 delivered to the U.S. Secretary of Education.