

2.

PROPOSED POLICY POSITION

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Background

Recent studies have shown a significant decline in the knowledge of other nations, cultures, peoples, and languages on the part of American school and college students, as well as the general public. International studies are important to the southern region of the United States in understanding their geographic relationships to other countries and the region's interdependence with other peoples of the world. The economic development of the South has become increasingly interconnected through its exports to and imports from countries around the world.

The Southern Governors' Association, sister organization to the Southern Legislative Conference, has published a report on International Education which identifies geography and cultural awareness, linguistic competence, and teaching of international topics as important in the education of the South.

It is important that administrators, teachers, students, and other individuals gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to function in an increasingly complex global society.

Recommendation

The Southern Legislative Conference supports and encourages state education agencies to plan, develop and implement an international education program that includes the study of nations, cultures, people, languages, and international issues with emphasis on how these elements are interconnected, how the relationships change, and how global interdependence affects all of these relationships.

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(Sponsor: Senator John Foster, Georgia, Chairman, Education  
Committee)

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