

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1807

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Dr. David L. Benson.

WHEREAS, Dr. David L. Benson, the Superintendent of Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229, of Johnson County, has been selected as the 2001 Kansas Superintendent of the Year and is the Kansas nominee for National Superintendent of the Year. He will be honored on his selection as 2001 Kansas Superintendent of the Year with a reception on January 30 at the Ritz Charles Conference Facility in Overland Park; and

WHEREAS, Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229 is a rapidly growing suburban school district located in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Its current enrollment is in excess of 17,000 students. In 1998 district patrons supported a 166 million dollar bond issue with 25 million dollars dedicated to support technology enhancements; and

WHEREAS, Through Dr. Benson's leadership and his commitment to the children in his charge, the district has been able to maintain its high academic standards, retain and attract qualified staff and expand curriculum activities for the benefit of students. Through his leadership he has created programs and developed initiatives to allow each child access to exceptional education opportunity. To recruit and maintain quality teachers the district has a mentorship program and a peer facilitator program, and with cooperation from the University of Kansas has a unique program to enable teachers to acquire masters degrees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Benson is a native Kansan. He was born in Chanute and graduated from Chanute High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Pittsburg State University and masters degrees from Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University before obtaining his doctorate in education from Kansas State University in 1986. He served as a teacher or administrator in high schools in Kingman, Junction City, Moundridge, and Salina before assuming his present position at Blue Valley in 1993. He has served in a host of school and school administrator organizations and is a respected advocate for public education; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his hard work on behalf of the students, parents, patrons, teachers and staff of the Blue Valley School District, Dr. Benson, a graduate of Leadership Kansas, is an active volunteer leader in his community, most recently serving as President of the board of directors of United Community Services of Johnson County; and