



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PK-12 Education Legislation from 2014 Regular Session

Early childhood care and education

- [**Act 868 \(SB 524\)**](#): Transfers authority for child care licensing (including licensing of LEA-operated Head Start centers) and administration of the Child Care Development Fund from the Department of Children and Family Services to the Department of Education. Also establishes a state advisory council on early childhood care and education.
- [**Act 717 \(SB 533\)**](#): Establishes a coordinated local enrollment process for publicly-funded early childhood care and education in geographic areas where no such coordination function exists, in order more accurately measure family demand, identify available seats, and match applicants to open seats within communities.
- [**HCR 61**](#): Urges and requests BESE to develop a statewide model for the funding and the equitable distribution of public funds for early childhood care and education.

High school pathways and TOPS

- [**Act 733 \(SB 98\)**](#): Clarifies existing law to allow talented, honors, and articulated courses approved by the Board of Regents and BESE to be calculated on a five-point scale for TOPS eligibility, in addition to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), gifted, and dual enrollment courses. Also authorizes BESE and the administering agency for TOPS to make necessary changes as AP or IB course titles change, in order to continue their inclusion in the TOPS core curriculum without having to annually amend the statutes.
- [**Act 737 \(SB 126\)**](#): Amends the TOPS Tech Early Start program for high school students by limiting funded courses to technical or applied courses leading to an Industry-Based Certification, a Certificate of Applied Science, and a Certificate of Technical Sciences offered at a Louisiana public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution or by any Louisiana training provider recognized by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and approved by BESE. Also amends TOPS and TOPS Tech to allow drafting to count toward art and fine arts core curriculum requirements, and amends TOPS Tech to allow students to take applied chemistry instead of traditional chemistry.
- [**Act 566 \(HB 1115\)**](#): Aligns social studies requirements for graduation and TOPS eligibility. Allows students to take government or AP Government in lieu of civics to fulfill graduation and TOPS requirements.
- [**Act 643 \(HB 944\)**](#): Updates career diploma law to align with Jump Start programs, removes entry requirements (age, 8th grade test performance, etc.), allows more course options for students on career diploma pathway, allows career diploma students to have the higher of ACT or WorkKeys score counted for accountability purposes, and requires all Louisiana public postsecondary institutions to recognize the career diploma.

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Educator evaluations

- [Act 240 \(HB 415\)](#): Requires the Accountability Commission to convene an advisory subcommittee to make recommendations relative to the effectiveness of the evaluation program.
- [Act 515 \(HB 533\)](#): Excludes students who have had ten or more unexcused absences in a school semester from measures of student growth.

School choice

- [Act 853 \(SB 61\)](#): Allows students who were most recently enrolled or would otherwise attend a "D" or "F" rated public school to enroll in any public school rated "A", "B", or "C" (including in another school district) if the receiving school has sufficient capacity at the appropriate grade level.
- [Act 482 \(SB 179\)](#): Aligns the Course Choice statutes with the approved 2014-2015 Minimum Foundation Program formula, which provides supplemental course allocations for students taking courses outside their high school, including dual enrollment and other courses offered by approved course providers.

Privacy of student information

- [Act 837 \(HB 1076\)](#): Imposes significant new restrictions on the transfer of personally identifiable student information and requires the use of a unique identification system for student data no later than July 1, 2015.
- [Act 677 \(HB 1283\)](#): Requires the LDOE and local school systems to post on their websites copies of any agreements for the sharing or transfer of personally identifiable student information.
- [Act 165 \(HB 340\)](#): The Personal Online Account Privacy Protection Act prohibits an educational institution from requesting or requiring a student to disclose information that allows access to his or her online account.

Personnel benefits

- [Act 849 \(HB 1253\)](#): Provides for the powers of school boards and local superintendents with respect to extended sick leave for school bus drivers, teachers and other school employees.
- [Act 659 \(HB 717\)](#): Makes changes to medically necessary extended sick leave for teachers and other school employees.
- [Act 741 \(SB 172\)](#): Provides for sick leave of teaching staff injured or disabled on the job as a result of assault or battery by a student.
- [Act 547 \(HB 171\)](#): Requires the governing authorities of public schools to offer their employees the opportunity to participate in the state deferred compensation plan.

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World languages

- [Act 99 \(HB 1016\)](#): Authorizes local school districts to affix a state seal of biliteracy to students' diplomas or transcripts if they meet certain academic eligibility criteria relative to language proficiency.
- [Act 196 \(HB 763\)](#): Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a request in writing to a local school board by the parents or legal guardians of at least twenty-five students seeking to be enrolled in kindergarten, or at least twenty-five students seeking to be enrolled in first grade, shall result in the creation a foreign language immersion program for those students.

Retirement

- [Act 226 \(HB 38\)](#): Changes the retirement age from 60 to 62 for members who join TRSL, LSERS and LASERS on or after July 1, 2014.
- [Act 571 \(SB 13\)](#): Provides for use of entry age normal valuation method by LSERS and TRSL to be used to determine actuarially required contributions.

Miscellaneous

- [Act 436 \(HB 1199\)](#): Requires local school boards to adopt rules and policies to provide parents with access to school-related information and instructional materials.
- [Act 833 \(HB 1015\)](#): Provides for the promotion and graduation of students with exceptionalities in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) plans.
- [Act 570 \(HB 1277\)](#): Provides relative to disciplinary actions of tenured teachers, requiring local superintendents to appoint a hearing officer and allowing both local superintendents and teachers to appeal the hearing officer's decision as a summary proceeding in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- [Act 548 \(HB 179\)](#): Requires local superintendents to disclose all terms of employee contracts to local school boards prior to board approval of such contracts.
- [Act 231 \(HB 242\)](#): Requires that school support employees be compensated at a rate not less than that of a substitute teacher for all work performed as a substitute teacher.
- [Act 815 \(HB 227\)](#): Provides for penalties of the crime of battery of a school athletic official.
- [Act 817 \(HB 285\)](#): Requires minors to provide documentation of school attendance within 90 days from the issuance of a Louisiana driver's license.
- [Act 671 \(HB 305\)](#): Prohibits providers of elective abortions from delivering instruction and materials in public schools.
- [Act 410 \(HB 370\)](#): Prohibits the use of wireless telecommunications devices in certain school zones.

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- [Act 518 \(HB 542\)](#): Requires students in grades 9-12 to have instruction on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator as part of health or physical education or another course that is required for graduation.
- [Act 654 \(HB 600\)](#): Provides for local school system policies regarding bus transportation and the loading and unloading of students in certain lanes of traffic.
- [Act 823 \(HB 690\)](#): Authorizes public school districts and schools to participate in group purchasing of materials, equipment and supplies.
- [Act 559 \(HB 864\)](#): Provides for penalties to school bus drivers operating a school bus without insurance.
- [Act 425 \(HB 876\)](#): Provides for traditional winter celebrations at public schools and the display of scenes and symbols associated with such celebrations on school property.
- [Act 136 \(SB 128\)](#): Provides for the licensure of specialist in school psychology by the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists
- [Act 506 \(HB 178\)](#): Requires instruction on dating violence in public schools for students in grades 7-12. Also requires the collection of data and reports of such data to local school boards.
- [Act 525 \(HB 733\)](#): Requires age and grade appropriate classroom instruction to students relative to child assault awareness and prevention.
- [Act 257 \(HB 795\)](#): Requires that school buses being used to transport students not be more than 25 years old and requires that active or backup school buses must be 15 or fewer years old.
- [Act 531 \(HB 968\)](#): Provides relative to optional dropout recovery programs and sets forth requirements for such programs, if established.
- [Act 532 \(HB 978\)](#): Requires law enforcement to notify school principals of any acts of obscenity occurring within 2000 feet of a school. Provides for principal notification of parents of students enrolled in the school regarding the incident.
- [Act 581 \(SB 514\)](#): Prohibits smoking within 200 feet of an entrance, exit or any outdoor areas of any public or private elementary or secondary school and requires that signs be visibly located indicating the smoke free area.
- [Act 476 \(SB 633\)](#): Provides that no public or nonpublic school that receives any public funds may be a member of, or participate, in any competition sponsored by any interscholastic extracurricular athletic association or organization that does not provide for third party arbitration of eligibility issues.

This memo does not contain an exhaustive list of legislation enacted during the 2014 Regular Session, but rather highlights some of the most significant statutory changes for PK-12 education. Additional legislation was enacted relative to specific school systems, retirement, and more. To search the Legislature's website for all legislation enacted following the 2014 Regular Session, please visit www.legis.la.gov. For questions, please contact Erin Bendily at erin.bendily@la.gov or (225) 342-3772.

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