

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned the 2018 Regular Legislative Session on May 18, 2018. Below are summaries of new laws and legislative resolutions relative to prekindergarten through 12th grade education policy that are most relevant to local school systems. To access the full text and to search for other legislative instruments, please visit www.legis.la.gov.

Assessments and Accountability

Act 555 (HB 509) - Rep. G. Carter - Requires the superintendent, school principal or other school leader, or his designee, of a public school that is required by BESE to develop an academic improvement plan, within 60 days of approval of such plan by the LDE, to present such plan during at least one public meeting held at the applicable school. Notice must be provided to parents at least one week prior to the date of the meeting.

Act 517 (SB 107) - Sen. Morrish - The LDE shall provide state assessment results to each public school governing authority no later than June 30 each year, except in any year in which a new assessment or significant adjustments to an existing assessment are required to align the content standards, or due to actions taken by the state board, state division of administration or the legislature. The results shall be provided in an easy-to-read format and contain scale scores, raw scores, student performance in categories and subcategories within a given subject, and longitudinal information, if available, on the student's progress in each subject area.

Act 522 (SB 152) - Sen. Morrish - For the 2017-2018 school year, BESE shall publish school and district performance scores and letter grades calculated pursuant to the rules in effect for reporting of the 2016-2017 school year results and those grades calculated pursuant to rules in effect for the reporting of the 2017-2018 school year results. The performance scores and letter grades derived from both methodologies shall be displayed side-by-side for comparison. Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and beyond, this performance score and letter grade comparison shall be used whenever the state board makes any significant changes in the criteria, methodology or manner of calculating and determining school and district performance scores and letter grades.

Courses and Curriculum

Act 300 (HB 225) - Rep. Stagni - Requires instruction in public high schools on the prevention of shaken baby syndrome.

Act 622 (HB 306) - Rep. Thomas - Provides for parent petitions of dual language immersion programs and a timeline the local school board receiving the written requests must follow.

Act 89 (HB 367) - Rep. Pierre - Provides relative to the State Seal of Biliteracy that recognizes high school graduates who meet certain academic eligibility criteria relative to world language proficiency.

Act 694 (HB 755) - Rep. D. Miller - Authorizes each public and nonpublic school governing authority to adopt a policy relative to the supply and administration of naloxone and other opioid antagonists. The law also requires that substance abuse and prevention instruction address the dangers of mixing of opioids and alcohol.

Act 410 (SB 224) - Sen. Barrow - Requires that no later than the 2019-2020 school year, the program of instruction on patriotic customs shall include instruction on the national motto, "In God We Trust" in public schools. In addition, each public school governing authority shall display the national motto in each building it uses and in each school under its jurisdiction. The nature of the display shall be determined by each governing authority with a minimum requirement of a paper sign.

Act 154 (SB 315) - Sen. Thompson - Clarifies requirements for instruction in personal financial management in public elementary and secondary schools and expands the manner in which students may receive such instruction.

Act 671 (SB 452) - Sen. Morrish - Addresses course requirements for TOPS relative to AP Physics I and AP Physics II.

Act 478 (SB 562) - Sen. Boudreaux - Defines virtual schools as those having a unique site code assigned by the LDE and which delivers all or a majority of the instruction provided through the internet or other electronic medium such that a student is not necessarily required to be at a specific location in order to receive instruction from a teacher.

Retirement

Act 613 (HB 13) - Rep. G. Miller - Allows for the rehiring of retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana. Provides that the term "critical shortage" means any situation in which an employer has advertised positions to be filled and received fewer than three certified applicants. A reemployment eligible position shall also apply to presenters of professional development training, tutors for students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, and classroom teachers employed in a temporary capacity to proctor tests.

Act 492 (HB 14) - Rep. Smith - Provides relative to the reemployment of retired interpreters, educational transliterators, and certified educators of the hearing impaired in positions covered by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

School Employees

Act 536 (HB 51) - Rep. LeBas - Allows a certified public accountant who is a member of a school board to employment with a sheriff to provide financial or accounting services. This law is applicable in any parish having a population of less than fifty-thousand according to the latest federal decennial census. (Note: Appears to apply to Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Natchitoches, Plaquemine, Pointe Coupee, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn parishes).

Act 631 (HB 625) - Rep. Edmonds - Requires local superintendents to grant a leave of absence not to exceed 30 days to regularly employed teachers following the legal adoption of a child.

Act 634 (HB 796) - Rep. L. Harris - Aligns requirements for criminal background checks for school teachers and administrators who seek state certification and those who are not required to be certified, and establishes processes whereby individuals having certain criminal records may be authorized by BESE to teach. Also addresses instances where teachers have been found to have submitted fraudulent documentation or facilitated cheating. The law provides for the assessment of a civil fine to any school governing authority that knowingly employs an individual without requesting required background checks or knowingly hires an individual who may not be employed pursuant to state law and BESE regulations. Provides that, at the request of a parent or legal guardian, a student shall be removed from the class of any teacher who has a felony conviction and placed in another class. Also addresses certification requirements of world language immersion teachers who are not part of the state's Foreign Associate Teacher Program.

Act 699 (HB 803) - Rep. Armes - Requires public school boards to notify certain school bus operators of route vacancies by postal mail.

Act 238 (SB 267) - Sen. Appel - Provides that school bus operators have ten calendar days from receipt of written notice of charges to respond in person or in writing and authorizes the superintendent to take interim disciplinary action, including placing the bus operator on administrative leave without pay, if applicable. The law provides for additional grounds for the removal of permanent school bus operators by the local superintendent and addresses disciplinary hearing measures.

Act 673 (SB 512) - Sen. Gatti - Provides for school employee participation in student-led prayer.

School Safety

Act 168 (HB 498) - Rep. Jordan - Requires school crisis management and response plans to provide for parental notification in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation.

Act 629 (HB 602) - Rep. Miguez - Provides that a person who possesses a valid concealed handgun permit may carry the concealed handgun within one thousand feet of any school campus.

Act 641 (HB 895) - Rep. Norton - Provides that each public school governing authority, in consultation with local law enforcement agencies, shall develop and distribute age and grade appropriate information to each student regarding Internet and cell phone safety and online content that is a potential threat to school safety, including how to recognize and report potential threats to school safety that are posted on the Internet.

Act 716 (HB 898) - Rep. Bacala - Requires each public school governing authority, as part of its school crisis management plan, to develop resources, policies, procedures, and guidelines to address the potential of violence and terrorism in the

schools under its jurisdiction. Provides for actions taken by school employees and that of any law enforcement agency receiving notification of an alleged threat of violence. Provides for mandatory reporting and medical and mental health evaluations of the person reported to law enforcement.

Act 523 (SB 178) - Sen. Walsworth - Allows students to wear, carry, or possess a bulletproof backpack on school property or on a school bus.

Act 512 (HB 270) - Rep. Foil - Exempts specified personally identifying information related to reports of violations of student codes of conduct or other policies intended for the safety of students or employees of postsecondary education institutions from the Public Records Law.

Other/Miscellaneous

Act 262 (HB 74) - Rep. Davis - Requires each public and nonpublic school governing authority to provide information relative to influenza and immunization against the influenza virus to parents of students. The LDH shall develop and provide such information, to be updated annually if needed, to the LDE for distribution to school governing authorities and approved home study programs.

Act 196 (HB 176) - Rep. Leger - Requires public and nonpublic school students who are entering the eleventh grade or who are age sixteen and entering any grade to provide satisfactory evidence of current immunization against meningococcal disease as a condition of school entry.

Act 306 (HB 272) - Rep. Hall - Provides with respect to group purchasing of materials, equipment, and supplies for public school districts and public schools.

Act 547 (HB 387) - Rep. Edmonds - Revises the Parents' Bill of Rights to affirm parents' ability to receive a copy of their child's records within ten business days of submitting a written request; to receive, no later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the school year, the annual school calendar, which shall be posted on the school's website; to receive a comprehensive listing of any required fee and its purpose and use, and a description of how an economic hardship may be addressed; to receive a description of the school's required uniform; and to be informed if their child's academic performance could result in not being promoted to the next grade level.

Act 330 (HB 616) - Rep. Hilferty - Provides that, beginning one-half hour before and after the school day, each public elementary and secondary school shall adhere to federal guidelines with respect to foods and beverages sold to students at schools or on the school grounds other than food and beverages sold as part of an school operated food program.

Act 459 (HB 670) - Rep. N. Landry - Requires local school districts to post their Public School Choice Act policy on their website no later than Sept. 30, 2018 and report the policy to the LDE no later than Dec. 31, 2018.

Act 369 (SB 250) - Sen. Mizell - Each governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school shall adopt policies, in accordance with regulations adopted by BESE, regarding access by students to Internet sites that contain or make reference to harmful, violent, pervasively vulgar material, obscene material, child pornography, or sexually harassing material conducive to the creation of a hostile or dangerous school environment. The LDE shall prepare information to be distributed to each public school governing authority for dissemination to the parent of each student enrolled in a school under its jurisdiction regarding the health risks and harms associated with pornography.

Act 241 (SB 378) - Sen. Appel - Requires public school governing authorities to share certain student data with the Board of Regents in order to enable analysis and program evaluation, and to support improved student academic achievement.

Act 688 (HB 656) - Rep. Emerson - Requires that existing literacy screenings be conducted within the first 45 days of school, but permits the LDE to extend deadlines in the event of a crisis or natural disaster. Requires school governing authorities consider the results of existing required literacy screenings in identifying students who should be referred for gifted evaluation or should be provided additional resources.

Act 696 (HB 766) - Rep. Pierre - Provides that public school governing authorities shall not prohibit a behavioral health provider from providing behavioral health services to a student at school during school hours if the student's parent or legal guardian requests such services of the provider. Each public school governing authority shall adopt a policy to implement these provisions by Jan. 1, 2019.

Act 646 (SB 89) - Sen. Bishop – Requires that beginning October 1, 2018, the membership of each board of a charter school located in Orleans Parish shall include at least one member who is a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent of a student enrolled in the charter school or an alumnus of the school, who may be appointed or elected. Each charter school governing authority shall adopt a policy prescribing the process and timeline for membership and the policy shall be provided to the parents of each child enrolled in the school and published on the school's website.

Resolutions

HCR 79 - Rep. Amedee - Requests that public school governing authorities take certain actions relative to helping students avoid injury due to the use of heavy backpacks.

HR 31 - Rep. Amedee - Requests BESE to study the feasibility and advisability of requiring daily recess for students in grades K-4 and submit a written report of recommendations.

HR 97 - Rep. Smith - Requests schools to offer American Sign Language (ASL) instruction and ASL club opportunities on school campuses.

HR 170 - Rep. Smith - Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to require public school governing authorities to adopt policies to address sexual abuse by children in schools.

HR 221 - Rep. Hunter - Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to take necessary actions to establish a pilot program for testing of drinking water in elementary schools and to report findings and outcomes of the program to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

SCR 48 - Sen. Morrish - Provides for legislative approval of the Minimum Foundation Program formula for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

SCR 76 - Sen. Johns- Urges and requests BESE to annually survey all Louisiana public, approved nonpublic, and charter school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom suicide awareness training is deemed beneficial in order to ascertain their compliance with the Jason Flatt Act, R.S. 17:437.1.

SR 141 - Sen. Walsworth - Requests the BESE, the state Department of Education, and each local public school board to maximize the funding and availability for dual enrollment courses.

SR 213 - Sen. Bishop - Requests LDE to require each local governing authority maintaining a website to annually publish information relative to classroom management, student guidance and discipline, PBIS, conflict resolution, mediation, cultural competence, restorative practices, guidance and discipline, and adolescent development.

SR 247 - Sen. Barrow - Requests each public school governing authority to review and consider the results of screenings in determining whether students should be evaluated for giftedness and dyslexia.

Task Forces/Commissions

Act 332 (HB 663) by Rep. White and **Act 413 (SB 401)** by Sen. Mizell - Creates the Bogalusa/Washington School System Consolidation Commission to study the feasibility of consolidating the Bogalusa City School System and the Washington Parish School System.

Act 639 (HB 676) - Rep. Hilferty - Creates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission and pilot programs for community early childhood care and education networks.

Act 381 (SB 349) - Sen. Appel - Creates the Technology Strategy Task Force for the purpose of conducting a thorough review and analysis of the statewide technology plan and the status of the technological abilities and projected needs of public elementary and secondary schools.

Act 600 (SB 465) - Sen. Bishop - Provides for an additional five members to the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline and for the annual election of a chairperson.

HR 12 (of the 2018 2nd Extraordinary Session) - Rep. Smith - Creates the Task Force on Student Fees to study and make recommendations relative to the assessment of fees to students attending public and nonpublic schools participating in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, and to submit a written report of findings and recommendations.