

## **NEW: Policy Updates and Reminders**

The LDOE has been asked to provide a few reminders to school systems regarding the following laws.

1. **Immunizations:** [R.S. 17:170](#) requires each person entering elementary and secondary school within the state for the first time, at the time of registration or entry, to present satisfactory evidence of immunity to or immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases according to a schedule approved by the Louisiana Department of Health's Office of Public Health, or to present evidence of an immunization program in progress. However, the law also provides that no person seeking to enter any school shall be required to comply with these provisions if the student or his parent or guardian submits either a written statement from a physician stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons, or a written dissent from the student or his parent or guardian is presented. Our office has received several calls from parents stating that their written dissent was rejected and their child denied admission into school. Please remind schools to adhere to the provisions of this law with regard to parents' written dissent to having their child immunized.
2. **Internet safety:** [Act 369](#) of the 2018 Regular Session, which enacted R.S. 17:100.7, requires each public school governing authority to distribute information developed by the LDOE regarding Internet safety and the public health risks and harms of pornography to the parents of each public school student. A [flyer](#) containing this information was included on page 3 of the 2018-2019 Educator Resource Guide, which ran in the July 24 and 31 newsletters. If you have not already, please disseminate this flyer to students' parents and consider making it available in electronic format as well.
3. **Suicide prevention training:** [R.S. 17:437.1](#) requires all public school teachers, school counselors, principals, and other school administrators for whom such training is deemed beneficial participate annually in at least two hours of in-service training in suicide prevention. In accordance with this law, the BESE identified and the LDOE has provided suitable materials for use in such training. A model district policy and training module can be found in this online [library](#) under "School Climate and Health Services." During the 2018 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature passed [Senate Concurrent Resolution 76](#), which urged and requested BESE to annually survey all Louisiana public schools in order to ascertain their compliance with R.S. 17:437.1, and to "mandate that all Louisiana school governing authorities document and verify to the state Department of Education by December thirty-first of each year that all...have received the mandated annual two hour suicide awareness in-service training through use of BESE's adopted suicide awareness curriculum." The LDOE will survey school systems later this fall regarding this law in order to respond to this legislative request.
4. **Promotion of students with disabilities:** In response to public testimony at the August BESE meeting, BESE requested that the LDOE remind school systems about the provisions of [Act 833](#) of 2014, specifically R.S. 17:24.4(H), which is also addressed in Chapter 4 of [Bulletin 1530](#), in determining promotion decisions for students with disabilities. Such provisions should be included in school system Pupil Progression Plans.

Please contact [erin.bendily@la.gov](mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov) with any questions.