



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: All System Leaders

FROM: Dr. Cade Brumley, State Superintendent of Education

DATE: August 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Archery, Hunter Safety Programs, and Gun Safety Classes

A recent United States Department of Education (ED) interpretation¹ of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) has created concern and confusion regarding the use of funds for “training in the use of a dangerous weapons.” Unfortunately, ED’s erroneous position is that school archery programs, hunter safety programs, gun safety classes, and other programs, such as wilderness safety courses, may not be funded with various federal dollars².

After conversations with multiple Congressional offices, I am advising that you continue funding these relevant programs, if so desired within your system. These endeavors have a rich history within the State of Louisiana and provide positive outlets for many students.

My office will advocate for the continuation of these programs for Louisiana school systems that choose to provide these opportunities for students. As this matter progresses, I will provide you with the necessary updates. In the meantime, please confer with your system’s legal counsel as appropriate.

cc: Secretary Shadoin, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

¹ “Under the plain language of the new prohibition on dangerous weapons, archery programs, hunting safety programs, and any other programs—such as wilderness safety courses—that provide, or provide training in the use of, items that are technically dangerous weapons may not be funded.”; See also <https://education.alaska.gov/esea/general-provisions>

² “Section 13401 of the BSCA amended Section 8526 of the ESEA to prohibit the use of ESEA funds, including those under Stronger Connections, to provide to any person a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon...”
https://oese.ed.gov/files/2022/11/BSCA_Stonger_Connections_FAQs_11-2022-FINAL.pdf