

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9-10, 2016. A summary of board actions that directly impact the activities of local education agencies are listed below.

Any bulletin revisions, with the exception of emergency rules, must run in the Louisiana Register as a Notice of Intent for 90 days and complete the rulemaking process before becoming rule and appearing in the bulletins on the BESE website. For more information or questions on any of these policy changes, please contact [Ryan Gremillion](#).

Revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, relative to state accountability measures

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, related to the calculation of 2016 – 2017 high school progress points, and exit codes.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*.

Revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, to align policy with Act 303 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session

[Act 303](#) of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session provides that certain students with disabilities who are no longer enrolled in public schools and who previously failed to receive a high school diploma or were denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit examination requirements to petition the local school board to determine if the student is eligible to receive a high school diploma. Students have until December 31, 2017, to petition their LEA for a diploma pursuant to this new state law.

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, to align policy with Act 303 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*. Guidance to LEAs will be forthcoming.

Revisions to Bulletin 1706, *Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*, to align with the Act 522 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session

[Act 522](#) of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session requires that local education agency (LEA) guidelines and procedures regarding seclusion and restraints be provided to the Louisiana Department of Education and posted on each school and LEA website. LEAs must also use the Special Education Reporting (SER) System for reporting incidents and all instances must be reported at least monthly.

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 1706, *Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*, to align current policy with Act 522 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 1706, *Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*.

Approval of the membership of the Science Standards Review Committee and workgroups

[Louisiana Revised Statute 17:24.4](#) requires BESE to develop state academic content standards for required subjects to be taught in Louisiana public elementary and secondary schools. In June, BESE approved a plan for the review of academic content standards in science. During the meeting, the Board approved the final membership of the review committees and workgroups.

[Click here](#) to view the membership of the Science Standards Review Committee and workgroups.

Approval of course providers for the Course Choice Program for 2016-2017 and reauthorization of successful providers

In accordance with state law, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Course Choice Program. The 2015-2016 RFA process represents a fourth call for course providers. This year, the LDE implemented a “rolling applications” process for course providers. This new process enables the LDE to accept Course Choice course provider applications throughout the year.

During the meeting, the LDE recommended two course provider applicants for Board approval based on successful completion of the three specified Course Choice evaluation phases (i.e., Application, Interview, and Independent Panel Review).

[Click here](#) to view a description of the course provider applicants approved by the Board.

Additionally, state law provides for the initial authorization of course providers for three years. After the initial three-year authorization period, the Board may reauthorize the course provider for additional periods of not less than three years nor more than five years after thorough review of the course provider activities and the achievement of students enrolled in courses offered by the course provider.

The Board approved the reauthorization of ten course providers.

[Click here](#) to view the list of course providers reauthorized by the Board.

Approval of Allocations

The Board approved six allocations of funding to local school systems, including funding to support dropout prevention and workforce preparation for at-risk youth, funding to support children with disabilities and their teachers, and funding to provide direct services to disabled and at-risk students in state operated programs.

[Click here](#) to view the list of allocations approved.