

Last Wednesday, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a number of policy revisions and other Department recommendations. 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 [Bridget Devlin](#).

Approval of the Process for the State Academic Content Standards Review

In response to the Board's directive from the March 2015 meeting, the LDE developed a process for the professional review of the state academic content standards. The Board approved the process, which can be accessed [here](#).

In addition to the process approval, the Board's final motion included a directive to post the nomination forms of the proposed committee on the website no later than May 25 and in the event that any law amended or enacted during the 2015 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session addresses the state's academic content standards, BESE will take necessary actions to ensure that the standards review process and related recommendations align to such laws.

Approval of Jump Start Pathways

Graduation pathways indicate how students can graduate with a Jump Start Career Diploma by taking courses and attaining industry credentials relevant to an industry sector. Jump Start Regional Teams develop and submit graduation pathways to the Jump Start Graduation Pathway Review Panel. This Panel consists of members from Louisiana Economic Development, Louisiana Workforce Commission and Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). This Panel collaborates with the regional teams to ensure that: (1) pathway course offerings are relevant; (2) credentials are relevant and rigorous; and (3) sample schedules provide appropriate guidance to school counselors and educators.

Graduation pathways approved by the Panel are forwarded to the State Superintendent for review. The Superintendent forwards meritorious graduation pathways to BESE for approval. Once approved by BESE, the graduation pathway can be adapted and adopted for approval by other Jump Start regional teams.

At last week's meeting, the Board approved [two Jump Start pathways](#), Maritime and Micro-Enterprise, bringing the total number to approved pathways to 47. The presentation also included an update on the Jump Start program which can be accessed [here](#).

Revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, related to the calculation of progress points for schools with high school grades

The approved tweaks to the calculation of progress points can be viewed [here](#). Importantly, schools that meet the current or new calculation standard in 2014-15 may earn progress points based on whichever is higher.

The Board approved the policy revision as Declaration of Emergency, effective April 15, 2015, in order to ensure both progress point formula options are applicable for the calculation of the Fall 2015 performance scores.

Revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, to implement a new pathway to a Career Diploma for students assessed on the LAA 1

The Board approved a pathway for students assessed on the LAA 1 to earn a Career Diploma. The components of the pathway include academic access, assessment, workforce and career training, and transition services. The approved revisions also include an adjustment to the student population eligible to count End of Course test scores at five percent of the final course grade. Previously, this provision only applied to students eligible for the Louisiana Alternate Assessment, Level 2 (LAA 2). Since the LAA 2 has been eliminated, the provision will now apply to students who meet the Act 833 (2014) eligibility criteria.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*. The language in red was added to the policy by the Board at the meeting.

Approval of Allocations

The Board approved eight allocations of funding to local districts at last week's meeting including: AP Exam reimbursements, assistive technology centers, Believe and Prepare awards, JAG funding, and the Preschool Expansion Improvement Federal grant.

[Click here](#) to view the list of allocations approved at last week's meeting.