

Last Wednesday, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) took several actions that directly impact the activities of or are significant interest to local education agencies. A summary is provided below.

For more information or questions, please contact [Ryan Gremillion](#).

Revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, regarding kindergarten entry assessments

State law requires the governing authority of each public school offering kindergarten classes to administer to every child entering kindergarten for the first time a valid and reliable readiness assessment. State law further requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to review the available valid and reliable individually administered readiness tests and recommend to BESE those tests acceptable for use. At its April meeting, the Department recommended and BESE approved revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, to add two new kindergarten entry assessments – Teaching Strategies Gold Survey (TS Gold) and Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) – as acceptable kindergarten entry assessments.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*.

Approval of course providers for the Course Choice Program for 2017-2018

In accordance with [R.S. 17:4002.4](#), the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Course Choice Program. 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.

Last week, the LDE recommended the 1881 Institute of Technology 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 at last week’s meeting.

Approval of Jump Start Graduation 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.

Last week, the Board approved [Early Childhood Education](#) as a Jump Start Graduation Pathway.

Approval of Allocations

The Board approved several allocations of funding to local school systems at last week’s meeting, including funding for early childhood lead agencies and school redesign planning.

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