

Last week, 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](#).

**Approval of revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, relative to LEAP 2025 United States History performance level cut scores**

The LEAP 2025 United States History assessment was administered for the first time during the 2017-2018 school year. Educator stakeholder committees including teachers, principals, superintendents, and chief academic officers, were involved in each step of the development process prior to the first administration of this new assessment. Also, educator committees reviewed student performance following test administration and continue to review achievement throughout the process of standard setting. The revisions to Bulletin 118 outline performance level cut scores for the LEAP 2025 United States History End of Course assessment.

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

**Approval of revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*, relative to student placement**

Last year, BESE adopted revisions to Bulletin 1566 that required LEAs, beginning with the end of the 2017-2018 school year and at the end of each school year thereafter, to identify, based on a preponderance of evidence of student learning, third and fourth grade students who have scored below “basic” achievement level in at least two core academic subjects, including English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, that would enable them to successfully transition to the next grade level. Further, the revisions adopted last year required eighth grade students to score at least at the “basic” achievement level in either English language arts or mathematics and “approaching basic” in the other subject in order to be promoted to the ninth grade; students not meeting the promotion standard after taking the eighth grade state assessments may be placed on a high school campus in the transitional ninth grade. However, the policy required students in grades 5 and 9 transferring from out-of-state schools, non-public schools, and home study programs, to take and pass the English language arts and mathematics portions of the LEAP placement test.

The approved revisions to Bulletin 1566 align transfer student placement policies with those for in-state public school students. While transfer students will need to take the placement tests, LEAs will be given discretion to make placement decisions. Students needing academic supports will have an Individual Academic Improvement Plan.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*.

**Important Note:** School systems are reminded to ensure that the provisions of [Act 833](#) of the 2014 Regular Session are incorporated into Pupil Progression Plans and that these laws pertaining to students with disabilities are followed. Within Bulletin 1566 is an important reference to [Bulletin 1530](#), which outlines placement and promotion considerations for students with disabilities. Please contact [erin.bendily@la.gov](mailto:erin.bendily@la.gov) with any questions.

**Approval of revisions to Bulletins in response Act 634 of the Regular Legislative Session**

[Act 634 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session](#) prohibits all public school boards, school systems, and nonpublic schools from hiring a person as an administrator, teacher, or substitute teacher if the person has: been convicted of or has pled *nolo contendere* to any felony offense even if adjudication was withheld or a pardon or expungement was granted; submitted fraudulent documentation to BESE or the department as part of an application for certification or teaching authorization, and/or been found to have facilitated cheating on any state assessment as determined by BESE. Act 634 also requires a process for issuing a teaching authorization to a person seeking employment as an administrator, teacher, or substitute teacher in any school, public or nonpublic, that does not require a Louisiana certification for employment. The approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*; Bulletin 745, *Louisiana Teaching Authorizations of School Personnel*; and Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel* align BESE policy with Act 634.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*;

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 745, *Louisiana Teaching Authorizations of School Personnel*; and

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*

**Approval of Allocations**

The Board approved several allocations of funding to local school systems at last week's meeting, including funding to support comprehensive literacy efforts for children, birth to grade 5; funding to support improved statewide school and health infrastructure; and funding to support improved performance of students in persistently struggling schools, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

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