

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 [Ryan Gremillion](#).

Revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, to encourage high school students to complete financial aid applications prior to their high school graduation

The Board approved revisions that seek to increase student access to state and federal financial aid by requiring that students graduating spring 2018 and beyond complete one of the following steps as part of their Individual Graduation Plan: (1) complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); (2) complete Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) application for state financial aid; (3) submit a parent's signature on a non-participation form; or (4) receive a waiver through district hardship waiver process. [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*.

Revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, to align with Act 389 of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session

The Board approved revisions to align policy with [Act 389](#) of the 2015 Legislature, which revised procedures for the adoption, review, procurement, and distribution of textbooks and other instructional materials for use in elementary and secondary schools. [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*.

The Department will be issuing guidance to local school systems in the coming weeks.

Revisions to Bulletin 111, The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System, relative to assessment results and related accountability measures

The Board approved revisions that address rewards earned by combination schools, the ACT index component of high school performance scores, social studies field tests in elementary and middle schools for the 2015-2016 school year, and participation concerns for grades three through eight English Language Arts and mathematics exams for the spring 2015 testing period. [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*.

Revisions to Bulletin 137, Louisiana's Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations, regarding licensing supervision, training, safety, and transportation

The Board approved revisions that create a requirement that invalid licenses be surrendered when a center has closed or has had its license revoked, address the Department's responsibilities in the revocation process, revise the process for changing license types, clarify continuing education requirements for early learning center staff, and clarify vehicular staff regulations. [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 137, *Louisiana's Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*.

Approval of Allocations

The Board approved seven allocations of funding to local districts at last week's meeting including: Believe and Prepare – Cohort 2 awards, Opportunity Grants, Priority School Support funding, and Math Summer Content Institute funding.

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