

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 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel, regarding the evaluation and certification renewal of operational and professional positions in school systems**

In response to concerns raised by local school system leaders, the Board approved revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, regarding school system administrators serving in central office roles and school-based teachers and leaders serving in operational roles. Current policy establishes evaluation requirements that may not be appropriate to these roles and that impede certification renewal. After discussion at a recent Superintendent Advisory Council meeting, BESE leadership collaborated with the Department, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, and the Louisiana State Association of School Personnel Administrators to identify a solution, reflected in the policy revisions.

The policy revisions allow district-level administrators to renew educational leader licenses using local evaluations. The policy also establishes an "operational role" status that allows teachers and school-based administrators serving in operational roles to freeze the validity period of their certificate while serving in such a role. This ensures that the educator certificate will not expire while the educator is serving in a role that is not suited to being evaluated per the standards of effectiveness. The policy does not affect teacher or school-level leader evaluations.

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

**Approval of revisions to Bulletin 1530, Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities, regarding eligibility criteria for participation in the LEAP Connect alternate assessment**

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*, regarding eligibility criteria for participation in the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. In fall 2018, a workgroup of experts from across the state convened to review the alternate assessment participation criteria outlined in Bulletin 1530 to ensure that only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities qualify to participate in the alternate assessment, as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Proposed revisions to alternate assessment participation criteria found in Bulletin 1530 were later presented to and endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP).

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*.

**Approval of course providers for the Course Choice Program**

In accordance with state law, the LDE released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Course Choice Program. The LDE implemented a "rolling applications" process for course providers that allows for course provider applications to be submitted throughout the year.

BESE approved three course provider applicants 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.

**Approval of Allocations**

The Board approved allocations of funding to local districts at last week's meeting including: funding to provide high-quality early childhood educational experiences to four-year-old children who are considered to be "at-risk" of achieving later academic success; and funding to advance the reading and writing skills of disadvantaged youth in grades 9-12, including English learners and students with disabilities.

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