

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 policy bulletins, 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](#).

Revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators to approve Media Arts as a course equivalent for Art in the TOPS Core Curriculum and the TOPS University Diploma graduation requirements

[Louisiana Revised Statute 17:3048.1](#) allows the Department to establish course equivalencies for any course included in the definition of the TOPS Core Curriculum, subject to prior approval by BESE, with input from the Board of Regents (BOR). At last week's meeting, the Board, after receiving input from the BOR, approved Media Arts I, II, III, and IV as course equivalents for Art for the TOPS Core Curriculum and the TOPS University Diploma graduation requirements for the 2014-2015 ninth grade cohort and beyond.

[Click here](#) to view the revision to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*.

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.

At last week's meeting, the Board approved the [Public Service graduation pathway](#) as its 34th approved Jump Start graduation pathway.

Approval of a Contract with Louisiana State University Human Development Center to Assist with the Implementation of Act 833 of the 2014 Legislative Session

The Board approved a contract with the Louisiana State University (LSU) Human Development Center to assist the Department in developing and implementing a comprehensive plan for professional development of IEP teams. This will include two phases of product development and technical assistance to address the needs of the state, its schools, and the IEP teams. Phase 1 will focus on the development, with rigorous stakeholder input, of five modules covering the essential components of the IEP team process. Phase 2 will support the state in dissemination of professional learning in six regional events and maintaining access to on-demand learning via internet access. The guidance provided by the LSU Human Development Center will assist the Department as it continues to implement [Act 833 of the 2014 Legislative Session](#).

[Click here](#) to view the contract with the LSU Human Development Center and [click here](#) to read the LDE press release for more information.

Approval of Early Childhood and High-Cost Services Allocations

The Board approved three allocations at last week's meeting, two of which relate to Early Childhood Network Pilots, with the remaining relating to High Cost Services.

The purpose of the Early Childhood allocations is to, first, support Early Childhood Network Pilots as they implement strategies outlined in the Early Childhood Care and Education Network – Roadmap to 2015; and, second, to provide support to community pilots to enhance the local technology infrastructure.

The High Cost Services allocation provides additional supports to LEAs serving students with high needs. These funds are available only to students who qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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

Approval of Reports in Response to Resolutions of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session

The Board approved eight reports in response to study resolutions from 2014 Regular Legislative Session. The reports cover topics such as charter school funding and transportation, student accessibility to water, early childhood funding, and student discipline. [Click here](#) to view the reports approved by the Board.

Revisions to Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel, and Bulletin 996, Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel* and to Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, to improve the professional opportunities and training available to teachers in early learning centers. The revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, include the creation of both a Birth to Kindergarten teaching certificate and an Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate.

The revisions to Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, includes the Early Childhood Ancillary Certificate Program in the current list of programs that may seek to be in-state and out-of-state non-university private providers.

[Click here](#) to view the revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel* and [here](#) to view the revisions to Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*.