

Last Tuesday, 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 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel, to set a new passing score for the Praxis Early Childhood exam**

The Board approved the Praxis Early Childhood exam in December 2014 as one of the assessment option for individuals who complete the new Birth to Undergraduate teacher preparation program. The Board delayed setting a passing score until the completion of a multi-state standard study conducted by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in the spring of 2015. At last week's meeting, the Board adopted the ETS-recommended passing score for the Praxis Early Childhood exam.

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

**Revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, to make technical edits**

The Board approved revisions to correct omissions, make technical edits, and update policy related to the TOPS University Diploma, the Career Diploma, and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.

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

**Revisions to Bulletin 119, Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, to align with current statutory requirements**

The Board approved revisions to align policy with legislation from the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. [Act 421](#) of the 2015 Legislature revises state law regarding the loading and unloading of students. [Senate Concurrent Resolution 92 \(SCR 92\)](#) of the 2015 Legislature requires BESE and the Louisiana Department of Education to establish policies and procedures to evaluate training curricula developed for bus drivers by private providers as well as to certify qualified private providers to deliver required school bus driver training. SCR 92 further directs the Department to provide a written report to the Senate and House committees on education regarding the policies and procedures developed by BESE and the Department.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 119, *Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures*.

[Click here](#) to view the report to the Senate and House committees on education.

**Revisions to Bulletin 1508, Pupil Appraisal Handbook, and Bulletin 1706, Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act, relative to students with exceptionalities**

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 1508, *Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, to align with recommendations from professional health organizations, as well as federal law, relative to screening activities, evaluation timelines, and school health and nurse services, for students with exceptionalities.

The Board also approved revisions to replace the term "mental disability" with "intellectual disability" across Bulletin

1508, *Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, and Bulletin 1706, *Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*, to align with federal law.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 1508, *Pupil Appraisal Handbook*, and [click here](#) to view approved revisions to Bulletin 1706, *Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act*.

**Revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, relative to achievement standards for the assessments administered during the 2014-2015 school year in grades three through eight in English language arts and mathematics**

In spring 2015, Louisiana students in grades three through eight participated in English language arts and mathematics assessments aligned to Louisiana academic content standards. As required by state law, these assessments allow for the comparison of the results of Louisiana students to that of students in other states. Last week, the Board approved cut scores for the English language arts and mathematics assessments that are the same as those being utilized in other states.

The revisions to Bulletin 118 were approved by the Board as a Declaration of Emergency, effective October 13, 2015, for a period of 120 days from adoption, or until finally adopted as Rule, in order to expedite the release of student and school assessment results to parents and educators.

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

**Approval of Allocations**

The Board approved seven allocations of funding to local districts at last week's meeting including: Believe and Prepare – Cohort 3 awards, Louisiana Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program (SRCL) awards, Believe and Succeed awards, College and Career Readiness 1003(a) support, Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) funding, and the Baton Rouge Achievement Zone – School Turnaround Leadership grant.

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