

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 Bulletins regarding Alternative Programs, Schools, and Accountability; N-size for accountable schools

In 2017, an Alternative Education (AE) Study Group was convened to evaluate alternative education across Louisiana and make recommendations for improvement. Based on the AE Study Group recommendations, the Board approved regulations that establish new expectations that address the study group findings and more closely align the approval process to expectations set forth in state law, including transitional planning and support, student learning and behavior plans, interventions, and staff support and engagement. The regulations also establish a new rating formula for AE schools that is more closely aligned to the unique mission of schools serving students referred to AE for long-term services.

[Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*; and [Click here](#) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 131, *Alternative Education Schools/Programs Standards*.

Revisions to Bulletin 111 also include a change to the “n-size” that determines whether all schools, not just alternative schools, receive School Performance Scores and school letter grades. The new policy sets the threshold at 120 accountability units (up from 40 units).

Approval of revisions to Bulletins regarding the creation and expansion of Teacher Leader roles

Over the past five years, the Louisiana Legislature, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), and the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) have revised expectations and supports for students and teachers. In October 2016, BESE, with support from the Board of Regents (BoR), adopted regulations to expand yearlong residencies and competency-based curricula statewide by July 2018, with a goal of building a strong educator workforce through access to ongoing professional development that helps aspiring, new, and experienced teachers strengthen and update content knowledge and pedagogical skills. In addition, development of teacher leadership roles designed to grow new and developing teachers at the school level offers leadership opportunities for teachers who wish to stay in the classroom.

In response, the Board approved regulations which establish Mentor Teacher and Content Leader credentials and provide for Mentor and Content Leader training, experience, and credentialing to contribute to school leader licensure.

[Click here](#) to view approved revisions to Bulletin 125, *Standards for Educational Leaders in Louisiana*; [Click here](#) to view approved revisions to Bulletin 130, *Regulations for the Evaluation and Assessment of School Personnel*; [Click here](#) to view approved revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*; and [Click here](#) to view approved revisions to Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*.

Approval of revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, regarding STEM diploma endorsements

In response to [Act 392 of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session](#), the Board approved revisions which establish STEM diploma endorsements recognizing high school students who exhibit academic achievement in STEM discipline subjects, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

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

Approval of Allocations

The Board approved several allocations of funding to local school systems at last week's meeting, including funding to provide services to disabled and at-risk students in state-operated programs, funding to ensure students have access to appropriate mental health services, and funding to support comprehensive literacy efforts for children, grades 6-8.

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