

Last Wednesday, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a number of policy revisions and Department recommendations. A summary of the approvals that directly impact the activities of local education agencies are listed below.

All policy revisions 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](#).

### **Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) Task Force**

Due to the success of the Minimum Foundation Program Task Force in the development of the 2014-2015 MFP formula and in reaction to specific study requests from legislators, BESE approved the recommendation to reconvene the Task Force for the development of the 2015-16 MFP formula. This year the Task Force will focus its efforts on three topics— Special Education, Early Childhood, and student count methodology.

At the meeting, the Board approved the MFP Task Force membership for the upcoming year. The recommended membership may be accessed [here](#), but note that the final approval shifted the representatives from the Louisiana Association of School Business Officials and the Early Childhood Advisory Council from non-voting ex officio members to designated appointments.

The Task Force [will meet four times](#) from September 2014 to December 2014 and will bring final recommendations to BESE at the January 2015 Board meeting.

### **Revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators**

- Career Diploma Requirements – revises the Career Diploma graduation requirements to align with [Act 643](#) and fully implement the Jump Start career education program
- Individual Graduation Plan – revises Individual Graduation Plan regulations to require IEP teams involvement for students with exceptionalities and align with the process for choosing a diploma pathway after tenth grade
- Civics Graduation Requirement – revisions aligned to [Act 566](#) that allow students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2014 to substitute Government courses for Civics
- AP and IB Course Titles – revisions to update the names of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate in the programs of study
- Dating Violence – revisions required by [Act 506](#) which directs LEAs to provide training on dating violence for all employees in contact with students in grades 7 through 12, collect data related to dating violence, and make an oral report to the local governing authority
- Child Assault Awareness and Prevention – a revision required by [Act 526](#) to require LEAs to provide age-appropriate instruction to all students regarding child assault awareness and prevention
- State Biliteracy Seal– revisions required by [Act 99](#) to allow LEAs to offer a Biliteracy Seal to graduating seniors who have met certain requirements (§2317)
- Health Education – revisions required by [Act 518](#) to require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators for students taking high school health

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

**Revisions to Bulletin 119, *Louisiana School Transportation Specifications and Procedures***

- School Bus Driver Certification – clarifies the annual physical examination requirements for a school bus driver in an effort to eliminate discrepancies and inconsistencies
- Used School Buses – aligns policy related to replacement schools buses with [Act 257](#), any school bus used as an "activity" or "backup" bus, at the time it is acquired by the owner and placed in service, shall be 15 or fewer model years old. Any school bus that is older than 15 model years shall not be used more than 60 consecutive school days in a school year

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

**Revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices***

The revisions approved by the board to Bulletin 118 are related to the state test security policy. The shifts in policy include:

- Online testing materials – the revision amends the definition of ‘access’ to add ‘student responses’ to the list of secure test materials that may not read, reviewed, or analyzed either before, during, or after testing, except when accommodations are being provided to students. The revision also adds student log-in information and other online testing information to the list of test materials.
- Test Security Policy – revision requires that school testing policies include procedures for handling emergencies during online testing and outlines testing procedures for coding and housing testing materials to the extent practicable
- Administrative Error – revision removes the allowance for accountability calculations to include retest results in cases of administrative error
- Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices – revision requires the confiscation of any cell phone that is discovered during testing, and the deletion of any record of the test

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

**Revisions to multiple bulletins relative to the assessment, promotion, and graduation of students receiving special education services**

[Act 833](#) of the 2014 Legislative Session amended state requirements around promotion and graduation for certain students with disabilities and increased the responsibility of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team in making academic decisions. The new law necessitated revisions to BESE policies and IEP team processes, excessive support for IEP teams and LEAs, and communication with families.

At the meeting, the Board approved revisions to five bulletins to align policy with [Act 833](#) and remove the administration of the Louisiana Alternate Assessment, Level 2. The LDE has published an FAQ specifically on these revisions that may be accessed [here](#).

**Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities***

- Promotion Requirements – revision provides for alternate pathways for certain students with disabilities to be promoted
- Graduation Requirements – revision provides for alternate pathways for certain students with disabilities to graduate with a diploma
- IEP Team Responsibilities – revision expands the role of the IEP team in promotion and graduation decisions

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

**Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices***

- Sunsets the administration of the LAA 2 in grades 4-8
- Clarifies that only students who have entered a high school cohort in 2013-2014 or prior may access the LAA 2 high school exams to meet graduation requirements. These students must take either the Algebra I or Geometry End-of-Course Tests (EOCT) to be eligible for the LAA 2 mathematics exam, the English II or English III EOCT to be eligible for the LAA 2 English Exam, the Biology EOCT for the LAA 2 Science exam, and the United States History EOCT for the LAA 2 Social Studies exam.

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

**Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System***

- Removes the use of LAA 2 results in the district and school accountability formula

[Click here](#) to view the latest revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*

**Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures***

- Requires local pupil progression plans to include promotion requirements for students with disabilities aligned to the new policies in Bulletin 1530
- Removes the promotion policy for LAA 2 eligible students

[Click here](#) to view the latest revisions to Bulletin 1566, *Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures*

**Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administration***

- Clarifies that the LAA 2 high school exams may be used to meet graduation requirements for students who have entered a high school cohort during or prior to the 2013-14 school year

[Click here](#) to view the latest revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administration*

**Revisions to Bulletin 126, *Charter Schools***

- Charter Authorizer Reporting Requirements – revisions require charter school authorizers, including LEAs, to notify each state senator and state representative in whose district a charter school is proposed for each charter application received by the authorizer, per [Act 729](#). The notification must be sent by electronic and postal mail and include both notification that the application was received and shall be followed by a notification of whether the application was approved or denied.

[Click here](#) to view the latest revisions to Bulletin 126, *Charter Schools*