

Education Bills Passed  
In the  
2024 “Regular” Session of  
the  
Louisiana Legislature



By Frank Pasqua  
**Retired** Member Louisiana Association of Child Welfare and  
Attendance Personnel



Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry gives his address in the House Chamber on opening day of the regular legislative session, Monday, March 11, 2024, at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge, La.

## **The 2024 “Regular” Legislative Session**

**Convened at noon on Monday, March 11, 2024**

**Final adjournment 6 P.M. Monday, June 3, 2024**

The following are summaries of:

***“Education Bills Passed in the 2024 Regular Session”***

To print a **COPY** of any of the Bills/Acts listed, please visit the website of the Louisiana State Legislature at [www.legis.la.gov](http://www.legis.la.gov)

The effective date of Acts passed this session is **August 1, 2024** unless the bill otherwise specifically provides, such as, upon the governor’s signature.

## EDUCATION BILLS PASSED IN THE 2024 “REGULAR” SESSION

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### Legislation That May Be of Interest to:

#### *CWA Personnel & School Administrators*

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#### SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 107 – Bayhem - STUDENT/DISCIPLINE: **Prohibits certain types of discipline of students in elementary and secondary schools.** Prohibits taping a student's mouth shut or restricting a student's airway as forms of student discipline, regardless of parental consent for the use of corporal punishment. Applicable to charter schools and nonpublic schools that receive state funds. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:416.1(B)(2))

ACT 400/HB322 – Stagni - STUDENT/DISCIPLINE: **Provides for disciplinary authority to public school teachers in certain scenarios.** Prohibits a principal or administrator from discouraging a teacher from taking disciplinary action against a student who violates school rules or interferes with an orderly education process. Prohibits retaliation and taking employment action against a teacher for taking disciplinary action that complies with policy against a student. **Requires rather than authorizes removal of a student** whose behavior prevents the orderly instruction of other students, poses an immediate threat to the safety or physical well-being of any student or teacher, or when a student violates the school's code of conduct. **Requires rather than authorizes a parent conference** after the *third* removal before the student returns to the classroom. Teachers are not authorized to violate public school governing authority discipline policy in the exercise of their rights. Prohibition on adverse employment action against a teacher for taking disciplinary action is limited to when teachers take action in accordance with public school governing authority policy. 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:416(A)(1)(b)(i) and (c)(i) and (v) and 416.18(B))

ACT 313/SB207 – Mizell - SCHOOLS: **Provides relative to the unauthorized possession of electronic telecommunication devices at school.** Prohibits a student from possessing on his person such a device throughout the instructional day. Requires, if a student brings a device in a school building or on school grounds during the instructional day, that it be turned off and stowed away for the duration of the instructional day or prohibited from being turned on and used during the instructional day. Provides that this law *does not apply* to a student whose Individualized Education Program, Individualized Accommodation Plan, Section 504 plan, or Individualized Health Plan requires the student's use of the device (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:239(A))

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

ACT 324/SB252 – Mizell - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: **Requires city, parish and other local public school boards to adopt and implement a “program” not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year to facilitate behavior health intervention and “referral” for treatment to:**

- (1) *Assist school personnel in identifying signs and symptoms* of a student with behavioral or emotional challenges that may cause the student to be at risk of their behavior escalating into aggression or disruption, disciplinary actions including suspension or expulsion, or juvenile delinquency.
- (2) *Designate a specific employee at each school* who shall be responsible for identifying behavioral and mental health support services available in the community, and when appropriate, facilitating a referral.
- (3) *Require that after any “second suspension” of a student during the same school year*, the principal and the designated employee consult on whether the student's behavior rises to the level of willful disobedience and could be attributed to behavioral or emotional challenges. Requires that if it is determined that the behavior is at such a level and supportive services could be beneficial, the principal and the designated employee *shall* schedule a conference with the student's parent or legal guardian to discuss the student's behavior and counseling as well as the *referral* of the student and family to support services for assessment and treatment. *Requires* a city, parish, or other local public school board to report annually to the state DOE and the House and Senate committees on Education:

- (1) The number of students identified as possibly having behavioral or emotional challenges. (2) The number of students for which a conference was scheduled. (3) The number of students referred for assessment and supportive services. Effective August 1, 2024. (Adds R.S. 17:416.23)

ACT 337/SB358 – Mizell - STUDENTS: **Provides relative to mandatory expulsion.** Changes the mandatory expulsion requirements from a student who is 16-years old or older who is in possession of a firearm to apply to students in **grades six through 12**. Provides as grounds for mandatory expulsion possession on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored event, pursuant to a hearing, of the following: a blade equal to or in excess of two and one-half inches in length, or any illegal narcotic, drug or other controlled substance. Further *provides* that mandatory expulsion is to occur if the student has been suspended **a third time** within the same school year for any offense, excluding those related to dress codes or tardiness. Provides that any student in grades six through 12 who is found guilty of being in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or vaping product on school property, a school bus, or at a school sponsored event **“may”** be recommended for expulsion. Changes the authority to extend the stipulation for probation from the local public school board to the **superintendent**. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S.17:416(C)(2)(a),(b),(c), and (d)(i))

## SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

ACT 352/SB434 – Mizell - SCHOOLS: **Provides relative to the use of vapes at school.** Provides that smoking or vaping any form of marijuana on any school property is prohibited. Provides for punishment pursuant to R.S. 40:981.3(A)(1) for any person who smokes or vapes any form of marijuana on any school property. (gov sig).(Amends R.S. 17:240(A)(2), (B)(2), and (C)(2))

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

ACT 386/HB629 – Phelps - STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: **Provides for responsibilities of parents of “truant children”.** **Requires** the parent of a truant student to ensure that the student makes up missed school work by attending after-school tutoring sessions, weekend make-up classes, or other remediation opportunities, **as determined by the school board**, until the student has caught up with his school work. **Requires** the parent to attend meetings at the school on at least a monthly basis relative to the student's progress until the student has caught up on his missed school work and any assistance fair conducted by the district that provides information on supports available to families. Provides that failure to comply with this law **may** subject parent to current penalties for the crime of *improper supervision of a minor*. Further **requires** each school principal to note any concerns that school personnel have relative to a student's attendance on any **Supplemental Security Income form** the school receives relative to that child. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:233(B)(1)(b))

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 46 – Edmonston - VACCINES/VACCINATION: **Prohibits requiring a COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of enrollment or attendance at a public or nonpublic school (applicable to licensed day care centers, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities).** Provides, notwithstanding present law, that no person shall be required to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of initial enrollment or continuing attendance at such a school (public or nonpublic). Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:170(A)(4))

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 47 – Edmonston - VACCINES/VACCINATION: **Requires that communication issued to students or parents about immunization requirements include exemption information and applies exemptions not only to students seeking to enter school but also to students attending school.** *Requires* that any communication issued to students or their parents or guardians relative to immunization requirements include the text and legal citation of the exemption provision. Provides that a governmental entity or business cannot implement, order, or impose a mandate requiring a person *to wear a face covering* to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with certain exceptions. Exempts students who are distant learners. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S.17:170(E), adds R.S. 40:1125.42)

## **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

ACT 460/HB908 – Amedee - VACCINES/VACCINATION: **Prohibits**

**discrimination against students on the basis of vaccination status.**

Prohibits a teacher or school employee or administrator from distinguishing between students based on whether a student has or has not received a vaccine from the schedule provided for in present law. Actions prohibited include but are not limited to discrimination based on a student's vaccination status in any of the following acts: (a) Determination of eligibility for athletics or other extracurricular activity. (b) Allowing or denying participation inside and outside of the classroom. (c) Issuance of surveys to students relative to vaccination status. (d) Organizing seating arrangements. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:170(E))

## **STUDENTS**

ACT 161/SB56 – Wheat -STUDENTS: **Provides for the administration of**

**medication to students by certain practitioners.** Allows the administration of medication and performance of noncomplex health procedures if prescribed by such persons licensed in any state in the U.S. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:436(B)(3)(a) and 436.1(B)(1)(a))

## **EDUCATION**

ACT 378/HB456 – Davis - EDUCATION: **Provides relative to the administration**

**of medication at school.** “Requires” rather than “authorizes” the adoption of each public and nonpublic school governing authority **to adopt a policy** authorizing a school to maintain a supply of naloxone or other opioid antagonists and authorizing school employees to administer them in an opioid emergency. **Provides a limitation of liability** on schools, employees, volunteers, health professionals, and training organizations. Authorizes the administration of life-saving medication at schools and applies the same limitation of liability. Requires the state Dept. of Education to develop and distribute a list of such medications. Authorizes training for administration of such medication to be provided by a medical emergency training organization, a registered nurse, or a licensed physician. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:436.1(M); Adds R.S.17:436.1(O))

## **CHILDREN/ABUSE**

ACT 216/HB335 – Carver - CHILDREN/ABUSE: **Provides relative to mandatory reporters of child abuse.** Modifies the definition of "teaching or child care provider" in present law to include *school resource officers*. Requires any police officer or law enforcement official who works as a *school resource officer* to be considered **a mandatory reporter**. Does not require a *school resource officer* to receive information from another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the report. Revises provisions relative to child abuse reporting to require certain reporters to report suspected child abuse if it was a contributing factor to the death of the child to the Dept. of Family and Children Services (DCFS) or local or state law enforcement. Stipulates certain measures for mandatory reporters and permitted reporters to report to the department. Provides that if a mandatory reporter is prohibited from making an immediate report because of employment policies, he shall be permitted to file a complaint with law enforcement. Provides for penalties against an employer who discriminates or retaliates against an employee who is a mandatory reporter. (gov sig). (Amends Ch. C. Arts. 603(17)(d) and (e) and 610(A))

## **SCHOOLS**

ACT 331/SB310 – Barrow - SCHOOLS: **Requires every public and approved nonpublic secondary school to print "988" on the back of all school IDs.** Provides that the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number is "988". Effective July 1, 2024. (Amends R.S. 17:282.4(F)(1)(a))

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## “Other Education Legislation”

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### HOME STUDY

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 644 – Dickerson - STUDENTS: **Authorizes students enrolled in home study programs to participate in public school activities.** Prohibits a public school from disqualifying a student who lives in the school's attendance zone from participating in extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics solely because he is enrolled in an approved home study program. Further subjects such students to the same requirements that apply to those who attend the school relative to trying out for participation, maintaining a minimum grade point average, and complying with disciplinary standards. Prohibits a public school from being a member of, or participating in any competition sponsored by, any interscholastic extracurricular athletic association or organization that denies eligibility to a student solely on the basis of his enrollment in an approved home study program. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:176.2)

### SCHOOLS

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 71 – Horton - SCHOOLS: **Requires the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools.** Requires each public school governing authority to display the Ten Commandments in each classroom in each school under its jurisdiction. Applies to charter schools and public postsecondary education institutions. Further requires the display of a context statement with the display of the Ten Commandments in K-12 public schools. Authorizes the display of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the Northwest Ordinance in K-12 public schools. Requires governing authorities, management boards, and institutions to either accept donated displays or to spend donated funds to purchase displays. Requires that the Ten Commandments: (1) Be displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least 11 inches by 14 inches. (2) Be the central focus of the poster or framed document. (3) Be printed in a large, easily readable font. (gov sig). (Adds R.S. 17:2122 and 3996(B)(82))

ACT 428/HB424 – Phelps - SCHOOLS: **Requires each public school governing authority to use a uniform 10-point grading scale.** Repeals present law (BESE policy), which requires a seven-point grading scale (100-93: A, 92-85: B, 84-75: C; 74-67: D; 66-60: F). and requires all public schools, including charter schools, **to use a uniform 10-point grading scale (100-90: A; 89-80: B; 79-70: C; 69-60: D; 59-50: F).** Provides exception for Dept. of Defense schools. 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:184 and 3996(B)(82); Repeals R.S. 17:7(31))



## SCHOOLS

\_\_\_\_\_ SB 475 – Owen - SCHOOLS: **Allows the Health Education course to be offered virtually under certain circumstances.** Adds an exception from the Health Education requirement for a student that is required to enroll in a physical education course for at least two consecutive school years. Prohibits the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education from enforcing a rule or policy that is contrary to this law. (gov sig) (Adds R.S. 17:17.8).

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 334 – Amedee - SCHOOLS: **Authorizes school boards to provide for chaplains to serve in public schools as employees or on a volunteer basis.** Authorizes local public school boards to provide for certified chaplains at schools, either as employees or volunteers, to provide support, services, and programs for students, staff, and parents. Further: (1) Provides that a chaplain need not be certified by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2) Allows more than one chaplain at a school. (3) Requires school boards to ensure that chaplains submit state and federal background checks prior to service. (4) Prohibits school boards from having a chaplain who has registered or is required to register as a sex offender or child predator. (5) Provides a limitation of liability for chaplains unless their actions or statements were intended to cause harm, harass, or intimidate. (gov sig) (Adds R.S. 17:3011-3014)

ACT 293/SB123 – Abraham - SCHOOLS: Provides relative to the **employment or acceptance of volunteer chaplains in public schools.** Allows each city, parish, or other local public school board to employ or accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide support, services, and programs for students, staff, and parents as assigned by a school board pursuant to this law. Provides that a school chaplain employed or accepted as a volunteer is not required to be certified by BESE. Requires that each certified chaplain consent to a fingerprint based state and federal criminal background check and prohibits the hiring of a chaplain who is a registered sex offender or child predator. Limits the liability of chaplains for any action taken or statement made in adherence with the provisions for service, support, and programs for students. Furthermore, this law denies immunity from liability to any action or statement by chaplains, if the action or statement was maliciously, willfully, and deliberately intended to cause harm to harass or intimidate those seeking support, services and programs. (gov sig) (Adds R.S. 17:3011-3014)

## SCHOOLS

\_\_\_\_\_ SB 253 – Foil - **SCHOOLS: Provides relative to parental consent for changes to an individualized education program.** Provides that children of military personnel will not be precluded from remote registration or preliminary enrollment under certain circumstances, such as having an individualized education program, receiving or qualifying for special education courses, having an exceptionality as defined in present law, or receiving or qualifying for accommodations under the Rehabilitation Act. Requires local education agencies to do the following relative to students with individualized education programs: (1) Obtain written consent from a student's parent or legal guardian before initially providing a student with special education courses or related services. (2) Provide 10 days notice to the student's parent or legal guardian before a reduction or removal of a special education course or related services is implemented. Such notice is required to be via certified mail, electronic mail, text message, or through an online portal. Authorizes the student's parent or legal guardian to request that a meeting of the individualized education program team be postponed after receipt of the notice relative to a potential change in the student's individualized education program. (gov. sig)  
(Adds R.S. 17:101(D) and 1946.1)

\_\_\_\_\_ SB 508 – McMath - **SCHOOLS: Provides relative to required high-dosage tutoring for certain students.** Changes grades of eligibility for such support for students who failed to achieve mastery on certain statewide assessments in reading or math from three through eight to kindergarten through five. Removes requirements for accelerated instruction redefines accelerated instruction as "high-dosage tutoring". Provides for high-dosage tutoring which meets specific criteria. Requires DOE to do the following: (1) Provide evidence of impact on student outcomes disaggregated by certain data. (2) Create reporting templates, procedures, and definitions for reporting metrics for city, parish, and other local public school boards to use in collecting and reporting tutoring-related data. (3) Provide training, technical assistance, and guidance to city, parish, and other local public school boards conducting in-school high-dosage tutoring. Requires local school boards to utilize available state and federal funds to implement present law and this law and further provides that if such funding is not available, local school boards are not obligated to provide funding to continue the expanded academic support provided for this law. (8/1/24) (Amends R.S. 17:100.13)

## **SCHOOLS**

ACT 97/SB85 – Edmonds - SCHOOLS: **To change the makeup of the board of the Jimmy D. Long School for Math, Science, and the Arts.** Changes the requirement that the appointees be two members of the Senate Committee on Education *to two members who are appointed from the entire Senate by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education.* (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:1964(A)(8))

ACT 338/SB363 – Coussan - SCHOOLS: **Provides relative to occupational experience of instructors in a technical or occupational course at proprietary schools.** Changes the requirement from an applicant for an initial license must provide, at a minimum, a current audited balance sheet to an applicant for an initial license must provide, at a minimum, a current balance sheet. Changes the minimum years of documented occupational experience in the area taught from four years to three years. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:3140.4(A)(1)(b))

ACT 311/SB205 – Miguez - SCHOOLS: **Requires additional compensation for teachers and other school employees under certain circumstances.** Provides for the establishment and publication of schedules by June 30th annually and for applicability to the next school year. Provides that the salaries provided in the salary schedules must be considered full compensation for all work required and performed by each employee within their prescribed duties and responsibilities, including only those specifically identified and described in their job description. Provides that additional compensation must be provided as follows: (1) Requires each governing authority to compensate any teacher who is not afforded the minimum uninterrupted planning time required by present law at the effective hourly rate of that teacher for each hour of planning time. A teacher's effective hourly rate shall be calculated by converting the teacher's annual salary on the teacher's salary schedule adopted by the governing authority into an hourly rate of pay. (2) Requires each governing authority to develop a uniform supplemental salary schedule for the 2024-2025 school year, if such schedule is not already in place, that specifically addresses compensation for duties performed by certified employees of the governing authority beyond the scope of their prescribed duties and responsibilities. Requires the uniform supplemental salary schedule to provide the following: (a) All certified employees shall be paid a minimum of \$30 per hour for such duties and responsibilities, rounded to the nearest tenth of an hour, net of all applicable deductions. (b) All nonexempt employees shall be compensated for overtime work in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq. Exempts teachers and other employees of the state special schools or the schools and programs administered through the special school district from this law relative to additional compensation. Provides that the interpretation of this law cannot be inferred nor construed in any manner to constitute collective bargaining. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:418(A))

## **SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL**

ACT 247/HB8 - Melerine - SCHOOLS/HIGH SCHOOL: **Prohibits a student who has not passed end-of-course LEAP tests from becoming eligible for high school graduation through an appeals process** involving the submission of a portfolio. Prohibits BESE and DOE from approving or implementing an appeals process allowing a student who has not met the achievement level required to pass the LEAP end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation to become eligible for graduation through the submission of a portfolio. Further provides that this law does not affect students pursuing graduation eligibility pursuant to present law (Act No. 833 of the 2014 R.S., known as the "April Dunn Act"), which provides alternative pathways for graduation for certain special education students. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(g)).

## **SCHOOL CHOICE**

\_\_\_\_ SB 313 – Edmonds - EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: **SCHOOLS: Creates the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program to provide educational savings accounts for parental choice in K-12 education. Relative to Educational Saving Accounts for schools.** Creates the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program, a universal education scholarship account (ESA) program for students in grades K-12. Provides the program is administered either directly by the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) or by a program manager selected by LDOE in accordance with Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rules. *Provides for a three-year phase-in of select student participants, beginning in the 2025-26 school year, until the program opens to all students in the 2027-28 school year.* Account deposit amounts are to be determined by BESE based on funds appropriated by the legislature for such purpose, and allows unused funds to remain in the account from year to year. Defines qualified education expenses that account funds may be used to purchase. Provides criteria that a participating school or service provider must meet to accept students under the program. Terminates the Student Scholarships for Excellence Program (SSEEP), effective 6/30/25, and provides for the transition of SSEEP participants to the LA GATOR program. Program implementation is contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the legislature for its purpose. Accounts will only be funded with state dollars. (Very Lengthy law)  
Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action except for: (1) The establishment of the LA GATOR program, which shall become effective when an Act of the legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for its implementation becomes effective. (2) The repeal of the SSEEP provisions, which shall become effective one year from the effective date of (1) above. (Amends R.S. 17:236(A) and 4014; Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(82), 4037.1-4037.12, 5029(F), and R.S. 39: 1554(T); Repeals R.S. 17:4011-13 and 4015-4025)

## **PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS**

ACT 326/SB262 – Hodges - EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY: **Expands the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools.** Adds that parents have the right that their child's school does not discriminate against the child by teaching the child that he or she is currently, or destined to be, either oppressed or an oppressor based upon the child's race or national origin. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:406.9(B)(14))

## **EDUCATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 121 – Crews - EDUCATION: Provides relative to the **use of certain names and pronouns** for students. Defines an "employee" as any individual working in any capacity at a public school including but not limited to teachers and other school employees, school bus operators, extracurricular personnel, and independent contractors, and defines "sex" as the immutable biological sex as may be evidenced on his original birth certificate, either female or male. Prohibits an employee from being required to address a student by a name other than the student's legal name, or a derivative thereof, or a pronoun inconsistent with the student's sex. Authorizes parents to seek corrective action if an employee refers to a minor student by a pronoun that is inconsistent with the student's sex or refers to the student by a name other than the student's legal name, or a derivative thereof. Exempts an employee from adverse employment action and exempts a student from disciplinary action for declining or refusing to do the following: (1) Address a person using a name other than his legal name or a derivative thereof or by a pronoun inconsistent with his sex. (2) Identify his own pronouns. Further provides: (1) That an employee, parent of a minor student, or a student who has reached the age of majority aggrieved by an intentional violation of this law shall have a private cause of action for injunctive relief, monetary damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and any other appropriate relief. Requires such action to be brought within two years of the violation. (2) That each public school governing authority is required to adopt policies for this law implementation and provide such policies to employees. (3) That public school governing authorities are prohibited from adopting policies that provide for inquiries of employees' and students' names inconsistent with their legal names and pronouns inconsistent with their sexes. Applies to charter schools. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:2122 and 3996(B)(82))

ACT421/HB 252 – Johnson - EDUCATION: **Requires distribution of certain Cardiac health information to student athletes and their parents.** Requires DOE to provide to public school governing authorities written communication relative to student athletes returning to athletics after a cardiac event. Requires public school governing authorities to distribute such communication to parents and legal guardians of athletes and to obtain signatures acknowledging receipt and understanding. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:440.3)

## EDUCATION

- \_\_\_\_\_ HB 320 – Owen - EDUCATION: **Repeals certain student instruction and teacher training requirements and authorizes the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to adopt policies requiring the inclusion of certain topics in such instruction and training.** Repeals previous requirements and authorizes BESE to promulgate rules that require the inclusion of certain topics in student instruction and in the training of teachers of other school employees. Requires BESE to consider the instruction/training topics repealed by this law in the promulgation of these rules. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:6(A)(15); Adds R.S. 17:6(A)(16); Repeals R.S. 17:81(R),(T),(X), and (Y), 154(A)(2) and (3), 252(D), 263, 267, 271, 271.1, 275, 276.1, 279 through 280.2, 404, 416.14(C)(2), 437, 437.1(B), 437.2, 440.1, 440.2, and 3996(B)(4), (22), (24), (30), (34),(44), (51), (64), (68), (69), (73), and (76))
- \_\_\_\_\_ HB 904 – Chenevert - EDUCATION: **Requires school-level reporting by public schools and postsecondary education institutions on programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and requires the state Department of Education and the Board of Regents to submit summary reports to certain legislative committees.** Applicable to both public elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary education institutions, requires school-level reporting for campus programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEI), including the purpose and expected outcome of each program, a brief description of each program, and the number of personnel dedicated to the program. Defines "program related to DEI" as any program, activity, initiative, event, instruction, action, or policy that classifies or references individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, culture, gender identity, or sexual orientation or promotes differential or preferential treatment of individuals on the basis of such classification. Requires each public school, for FY 2021-2022, FY 2022-2023, and FY 2023-2024, to submit to its school board a written report of all campus programs related to DEI by Oct. 31, 2024. Requires each school board to submit a report on its schools to the state Dept. of Education (DOE) by Dec. 31, 2024. Requires DOE to submit a report summarizing this information to the House and Senate education committees, House Committee on Appropriations, and Senate Committee on Finance by Jan. 31, 2025. Requires that the report include: (1) The total amount of funding expended to support or implement the program, including salaries, stipends, and benefits. (2) Of the total amount spent to support the program, the amount that is state-funded. (gov sig) Repeal of this law effective Feb. 1, 2025. (Adds R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82); Repeals R.S. 17:2122, 2123, and 3996(B)(82))

## EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_ HB 647 – Romero - EDUCATION: **Provides relative to student instruction requirements.** Provides relative to the effectiveness of student instructional requirements and requires the state Dept. of Education to maintain a list of such requirements. Provides that a requirement for additional student instruction shall become effective only if the requirement is offset by the elimination of another instructional requirement, completion of which requires at least the same amount of time as the additional requirement. Requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to maintain a list of student instruction required by law and not provided for in the state content standards adopted by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) or the Carnegie units established by DOE in accordance with BESE policy. Specifies list content and requires a report to the House and Senate education committees every five years. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:419.4; Adds R.S. 17:420(C) and (D))

## STUDENT/ASSESSMENT

\_\_\_\_ HB 267 – Hughes - STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Provides relative to **numeracy education** to students in **kindergarten through third grade.** Requires the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to develop or select and provide three numeracy screeners to measure the development of foundational numeracy of each public school student in grades K - 3. Provides for students to take screeners throughout the school year: within the first 30 days of the school year, in Dec., and in April. Requires each public school to: (1) Provide each student in grades K-3 instruction based on methods proven to provide a strong numeracy foundation. (2) Administer the numeracy screeners developed or selected and provided by DOE. (3) Provide numeracy interventions and supports to students identified as having numeracy skills below grade level. (4) Ensure that all textbooks and instructional materials used to teach students mathematics are high-quality; fully aligned to state content standards; and based on certain numeracy strategies. Requires parental notification when students are identified as having numeracy skills that are below grade level. Additionally requires the school to provide the student's parent with the following: (1) Information regarding the importance of being proficient in certain numeracy concepts by the end of 3rd grade. (2) Activities that may be used at home to improve numeracy proficiency. (3) Information regarding the specific interventions and supports that the school will provide to improve the student's numeracy skills. (4) Mid-year and end-of-the-year updates detailing the student's progress and additional tools to use at home. Requires school officials and parents to create an individual numeracy improvement plan for each student identified as having numeracy skills below grade level. Authorizes the consolidation of certain academic improvement plans provided for in present law this law. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:24.10(A)(4)(a), (F), and (G); Adds R.S. 17:24.10(H) through (K))

## STUDENT/ASSESSMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 762 – Bamberg - STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: **Exempts students who attain certain scores on the English and math sections of the ACT from end-of-course testing and allows career diploma students to take WorkKeys or the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery in lieu of the ACT.** Provides that if BESE policy requires students pursuing a diploma other than a career diploma to take the ACT, they may also take WorkKeys and ASVAB. Applicable to all students, applies BESE's obligation to develop a system of equivalent scores to all three of these tests for purposes of the school and district accountability system. Provides for this law implementation beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. (Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(3); Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(g))

## SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 429 – Bryant - SCHOOLS/FOOD PROGRAMS: **Prohibits the use of imported seafood in food served at schools.** Prohibits serving imported seafood to students at public schools and nonpublic schools that receive state funds. Further prohibits serving imported seafood in the La. state capitol cafeteria. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:192.2)

## STUDENTS

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 244 – Hughes - STUDENTS: **Expands the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include mathematics and certain public school students in all grades.** Expands the purpose of program to include mathematics and changes name from the Steve Carter Literacy Program to the Steve Carter Education Program. Expands eligible students to also include: (1) Enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and is at risk for mathematics difficulties according to a mathematics assessment. (2) Enrolled in the fourth through 12th grade and scored below mastery in mathematics on the state assessment in the prior school year. (3) Enrolled in the sixth through 12th grade and scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year. (4) Enrolled in kindergarten through the fifth grade, lacks a mathematics assessment result, and is recommended for the program by a mathematics teacher. Increases maximum payment from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and expands eligible services to also include those intended to improve mathematics skills. Further authorizes the department to use funds for improving students' mathematics abilities. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:4032.1)



## STUDENTS

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 872 – Miller - STUDENTS: **Provides relative to behavioral health services for students.** Exempts providers who are licensed, certified, or registered by the La. Behavior Analyst Bd., who are in good standing with the board, and who provide documentation of having passed a criminal background check with the La. State Police from passing a subsequent check. Prohibits any person who has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)) from providing behavioral health services to a student at school during school hours. Prohibits a public school governing authority from prohibiting a behavioral health evaluation, assessment, or authorized treatment plan from being performed on school property in order to establish medical necessity or deliver medically necessary services. Requires services provided to be delivered by providers licensed, certified, or registered by the La. Behavior Analyst Bd. and certain other persons not subject to licensing by the board. Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education to promulgate rules as necessary to implement the provisions of present law and new law. Requires the rulemaking process relative to certain new law commence by Sept. 1, 2024. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:173(A); Adds R.S. 17:173(B)(7) and (8) and (D))

\_\_\_\_\_ SB 336 – Pressly - STUDENTS: **Provides for dyslexia screening and subsequent testing and core assessment.** Adds that, if requested by the parent, a core assessment for the diagnosis of dyslexia shall be administered as follows: (1) Authorizes the parent to select either the school or a DOE-approved vendor or professional to administer the assessment. (2) Prohibits the assessment from being based on a single test score or specific number of characteristics and requires that it include specific components. (3) Requires DOE to do the following in accordance with State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education rules relative to assessment administration: establish qualifications and an approval process for such vendors and professionals; establish a payment amount and provide for reimbursement; and reimburse the school or parent, as applicable. Provides that implementation of both present law relative to the screener and this law relative to the core assessment is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for those purposes .Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:392.11(B) and (C); Adds R.S. 17:392.11(D))

## STUDENTS

SB 72 – Pressly - STUDENTS: **Exempts students with dyslexia from certain literacy examinations and provides for alternative progress monitoring tests.** Exempts students with dyslexia from taking literacy screeners. Requires schools to administer a nationally norm-referenced test that assesses phonological skills and oral reading fluency to such students. Requires DOE to request authorization from the U.S. Dept. of Education to implement the provisions of this law. Requires public school governing authorities to implement the provisions of this law after notification of such authorization from DOE. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:24.10(G); Adds R.S. 17:24.10(H))

## TEACHERS

ACT 116/HB601 – Carpenter - TEACHERS: **Authorizes principals to notify the parents of any child assigned to the classroom of an uncertified teacher, teacher with a non-standard certificate, or teacher authorized to teach without certification.** Authorizes principals to notify parents if children are assigned to the classroom of a temporary, uncertified teacher; a teacher with a nonstandard certificate; or a teacher authorized to teach without certification. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:8.1(F))

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

ACT 198/HB153 – Bacala - EDUCATION/SPECIAL: **Provides relative to special Education.** Adds special education to the list of **training on certain topics for school board members.** Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (**BESE**) to **adopt rules** for the provision of behavioral health services for students in schools and provide for a dispute resolution process according to guidelines established by the state Dept. of Education (DOE). Requires the **local school superintendents** and administrative heads of charter schools to provide for an **annual report** to the special education advisory councils on specified special education matters and requires BESE to adopt rules for implementation. Extends the right to request a **special education due process hearing** from within one year to two years. Authorizes **BESE** to adopt rules for the implementation of an early resolution process for individuals to resolve disputes with local education agencies over special education issues. Provides that a written agreement developed pursuant to this process is enforceable in any court of competent jurisdiction. Requires the installation of cameras in special education classrooms upon parental request **within 90 days of such request.** Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:53(A)(3), 1944.1(D), and 1946(B); Adds R.S.17:173(D), 1944.1(E), 1946(E), and 1948(G))

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 362 – Kerner - EDUCATION/SPECIAL: **Requires schools to provide information regarding tutorship to the parents of certain students at Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.** Additionally provides: (1) Each LEA shall adopt a policy requiring schools to provide written information regarding certain legal procedures affecting the transfer of individual rights from parent to child when the child attains the age of majority to parents of certain students with exceptionalities, including but not limited to supported decision making, power of attorney, continuing or permanent tutorship, and limited and full interdiction. (2) The document shall inform parents of legal options and how each option relates to such transfer of rights. (3) The document shall be provided at the child's first Individualized Education Program meeting of the school year to a parent of each child who is 14, 15, 16, or 17 years old who participates in alternate assessment or an alternate pathway to promotion pursuant to present law. (4) Parents shall be provided a form by which to confirm receipt. (5) The state Dept. of Education shall develop the information and provide it to each LEA. (6) The information is not intended to be legal advice, which shall be indicated on the document, and an LEA is not liable for claims arising from the provision of the information. Provides for the La. State Law Institute to make this law terminology relative to tutorship consistent with the terminology in SB61 of this 2024 R.S. if that bill becomes law. Provides that this law shall be known and may be cited as the "Hunter and Kennedy Clanton Act". Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:1944(H))

## **CURRICULA**

ACT 211/HB264 – Hughes - CURRICULA: **Adds computer science as a high School graduation requirement and requires teacher preparation programs to include computer science education.** Requires completion of a one unit Computer Science course for: (1) Graduation from a public high school. (2) A high school career diploma (3) A TOPS award. (4) A TOPS-Tech award. Relative to students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year. Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to promulgate rules to implement offering Computer Science courses. Requires teacher preparation programs to include instruction on teaching student computer science and authorizes such instruction to be incorporated into an existing course of study. Implementation required in part beginning with the 2026-2027 school year; in part beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. (Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(b), (c), and (f), 5025(2)(b), (3)(c), (5), and (8), and 5026(A)(2)(c), (3)(b), and (5); Adds R.S. 17:7.2(A)(9), 280.3, 3996(B)(82), 5025(9), 5025.7, and 5026(F))

## CURRICULA

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 122 – Horton - CURRICULA: **Provides relative to instruction on and discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity with certain public school students.** Prohibits a public school teacher, employee, or other presenter at a school from doing any of the following in grades kindergarten through 12: (1) Incorporating into classroom instruction or discussion topics of sexual orientation or gender identity in a manner that deviates from state content standards or curricula developed or approved by the public school governing authority. (2) Covering the topics of sexual orientation or gender identity during any extracurricular activity. (3) Discussing his personal sexual orientation or gender identity. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:412)

ACT 154/HB551 – Brass - CURRICULA: **Revises the membership and duties of the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force.** Provides for the addition of the president of the La. Assoc. for Career and Technical Education or his designee to the members of the task force. Expands the focus of recommendations to include the following: (1) Career pathways and technical high schools. (2) Opportunities for expanding career-relevant college credit and industry-based credentials through dual enrollment, including by establishing regional technical high schools operated by partnerships of one or more school districts and one or more public colleges or universities. (3) Expanding virtual instruction programs to increase the participation of dual enrollment course offerings. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:2922.1(B)(1)(intro. para.), (D)(1), and (E)(5)(a), (d), (e), and (f); Adds R.S. 17:2922.1(B)(1)(n) and (E)(5)(g) and (h).

ACT 91/SB38 – Edmonds - CURRICULA: **Provide with respect to the Course Choice Program.** Changes the definition of "eligible funded student" from a student that obtains approval from the local school superintendent or governing authority to a student who obtains parental approval after consultation with the person designated by the governing authority of the school. Changes the requirement that the public school governing authority determine the appropriateness of the requested course to advising the student and the student's parents as to the appropriateness as part of the development and annual review of the student's Individual Graduation Plan. Restricts the choice of course if the student's school counselor determines that the course is not academically appropriate with the student's chosen major or graduation pathway. Restricts the student's choice of course if the course violates the department's published student high school planning resources. Effective July 1, 2025. (Amends R.S. 17:4002.3(2)(b) and 4002.5(A)(intro para) and (A)(1) and (B))

## **CURRICULA**

ACT 335/SB352 – Mizell - CURRICULA: **Provides relative to the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force.** Adds one member to the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force who is the president of the Louisiana Association for Career and Technical Education or his designee. Provides that the task force must review career pathways and technical high schools in developing recommendations for the framework. Provides that the guarantee that dual enrollment courses articulate to the appropriate public postsecondary education institution includes advancing a student's progress toward postsecondary technical certificates, diplomas, and degrees and relate industry-based certifications. Provides that the task force can identify a process to explore the expansion of virtual instruction programs to increase the participation of dual enrollment course offerings in school districts across the state. Provides that the task force can identify a process to recognize and reward schools that have earned significant credit toward a credential or degree in both academic and technical fields. Provides that the task force can recognize a process to recognize and reward postsecondary education institutions that shows significant use of dual enrollment in academic or technical fields. Provides that the task force can recognize a process to identify opportunities for expanding career-relevant college credit and industry-based credentials through dual enrollment, including by establishing regional technical high schools operated by partnerships of one or more school districts and one or more public colleges or universities. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S.17:2922.1(B)(1) (intro para) and 2922.1(D)(1), and (E)(5)(a), (d), (e), (f); and adds 2922.1(B)(1)(n) and (E)(5)(g) and (h))

## **ETHICS/CODE**

ACT 492/HB426 – Melerine - ETHICS/CODE: **Provides relative to educational professionals providing academic tutoring services under certain circumstances.** Provides an exception to allow a teacher, coach, or other educational professional to provide academic tutoring or athletic training services for compensation to students who attend the school at which the teacher, coach, or other educational professional is assigned and for the waiver of any usage fees associated with the use of school facilities for these purposes. Provides an exception to allow a member of an elected body who is an employee of a prohibited source to receive compensation from the prohibited source if the member is a salaried or wage earning employee of the prohibited source; the member's salary or wages are not materially impacted by the transaction between the public body and the prohibited source; the member is not an officer, director, or trustee of the prohibited source; the member does not have an ownership interest in excess of one percent in the prohibited source; and the member does not participate in any vote related to a transaction or perform any duties related to a transaction between the public entity and the prohibited source. (gov sig)  
(Adds R.S. 42:1123(41) and (42))

## TEACHERS/CERTIFICATION

ACT 186/HB45 - Johnson - TEACHERS/CERTIFICATION: **Expands the entities associated with the certification of Montessori teachers.** Retains the certification classes and associated qualifications and adds the International Montessori Council and the Southwestern Montessori Training Center to these entities. Additionally provides for certification from any Montessori training course from a program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:3403(A))

## LIBRARIES

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 974 – Carlson - LIBRARIES: **Provides relative to qualifications for library directors.** Authorizes library boards of control to hire a library director and establish qualifications for the position. Authorizes library boards of control to hire a library director and establish the qualifications for the position. Authorizes the boards to require a certificate or permit from the State Bd. of Library Examiners as a qualification for the position of library director. Authorizes library boards of control to provide that the library director shall serve as the head librarian. Provides that a head librarian who also serves as the library director is exempt from requirement for certification by the State Bd. of Library Examiners. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 25:215(A))

## SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

ACT 375/HB363 – Phelps - SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: **Requires in-service training for school nurses on caring for students with sickle cell disease.** Requires that school nurses in public schools, including charter schools, participate in an in-service training program using instructional materials provided in accordance with this law on caring for students with sickle cell disease, including disease symptoms and treatment; medical needs of, and possible accommodations for, such students; and communication with parents and other school personnel in support of positive academic outcomes for these students. Requires the La. Sickle Cell Commission to provide the instructional materials to the state Dept. of Education and requires the dept. to provide the materials and information to school boards for this law's purposes. Effective 8/1/2024 (Adds R.S. 17:436.5 and 3996(B)(82))

## **SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**

ACT 115/HB600 – Carpenter - SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: **Provides relative to sick leave banks for teachers, bus operators, and other school employees.**

Relative to sick leave banks for school employees, allows direct employee-to-employee donations and requires the retention of a certain percentage of the leave balance in the bank from school year to school year.

New law:

- (1) Authorizes an employee to donate a certain amount of his sick leave directly to another employee.
- (2) Requires that at least 90% percent of the bank's leave balance be retained from one school year to the next.

Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:500.2(F), 1202(F), and 1206.2(F))

ACT 315/SB213 – Jenkins - SCHOOLS: **Provides sick leave for school employees under certain circumstances.** Provides that an employee, as defined by RS 17:1205, of the parish or city school boards of this state, who is disabled, as defined in current law R.S. 17:1200(C), while acting in his official capacity as a result of physical contact with a student while providing physical assistance to a student to prevent danger or risk of injury to the student, shall receive sick leave for a period **up to one year instead of 90 days** without reduction in pay and without reduction in accrued sick leave days while disabled as a result of rendering such assistance. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:1206.1(B))

ACT 95/SB54 – Wheat - HEALTH SERVICES: **Requires CPR/AED training for coaches in Louisiana.** Requires that, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, any high school employee who serves as a coach for the school must obtain and maintain certification in CPR, first aid, and AED use. Requires the certification to be consistent with the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or other national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines. Provides for a limitation of liability for any coach who performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation or first aid or uses an automatic external defibrillator in his capacity as a school coach. Provides that it will not apply to any city, parish, or other local public school board until the legislature appropriates the necessary amount of funds to implement the law or grants or other private donations are made to the school to pay for costs of implementation. Effective August 1, 2024. (Adds R.S. 17:440.3)

## RETIREMENT

ACT 109/HB31 – Freiberg - RETIREMENT/TEACHERS: **Allows an optional retirement plan participant to transfer to the defined benefit plan in the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL).** Provides that, beginning on Jul. 1, 2026, the employer is required to contribute the administration and maintenance fee. Provides for the participant to pay a share of the monthly fee, which shall be the lesser of: (1) One-half of the total monthly fee. (2) 0.05% of the participant's earnable compensation. Provides the balance remaining of the monthly fee is to be paid by the employer. Provides that an active, contributing participant in the ORP may elect, through written notice to TRSL, to cease contributions to the ORP and begin membership in the regular retirement plan of TRSL. Provides for termination of contributions to the ORP and commencement of contributions to TRSL based on the date the system receives the member's election. Provides that for participants in the ORP who became eligible for participation in the plan on or after Aug. 1, 2020, the election to terminate participation shall be received within five years after his first employment making him eligible for participation in the ORP. Provides that distributions from the ORP shall be made in accordance with present law. Provides that for a person who moves from the ORP to the regular retirement plan and who has prior service credit in TRSL, the prior service credit may be applied in calculating a benefit but not in determining eligibility for benefits. Requires that any cost of proposed law be funded with additional employer contributions in compliance with Art. X, Sec 29(F) of the Constitution of Louisiana. Effective June 30, 2024. (Amends R.S. 11:927(A); Adds R.S. 11:927(B)(4) and (F), 929(B)(2)(d), and 932)

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HB 39 – McCormick - RETIREMENT/STATE EMPS: **Provides relative to the reemployment of retired bus drivers of the Louisiana School Employees Retirement System.** Makes present law of suspending benefits for the first 12 months after retirement but are not suspending or reducing them after that also applicable to a retiree who returns to work as a part-time bus operator. Reduces the period of benefit suspension for full- or part-time bus operators who retired on or before June 30, 2024. Changes terminology from "bus driver" to "bus operator". Repeals present law that requires the superintendent of an employer who employs a retiree as a full-time bus driver to certify to the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education that a shortage of qualified bus drivers exists in the school district. Requires that any cost of this law be funded with additional employer contributions in compliance with Art. X, Sec. 29(F) of the state constitution. (8/1/2024) (Amends R.S. 11:1006(D) and 1007(A)(1), (B), (C), (D), and (F); Repeals R.S. 11:1007(C)(3))



## RETIREMENT

ACT 394/HB967 – Riser - RETIREMENT/TEACHERS: **Provides for the reemployment of retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana in critical shortage positions.** Authorizes reemployment of retirees in critical shortage areas without a suspension of benefits applicable to the following: (1) Retirees who retired on or before June 30, 2020, and who return to work in such a position on a part-time basis. (2) Retirees who retire after June 30, 2020, and who return to work in such a position on a full-time or part-time basis. Requires that any cost of this law be funded with additional employer contributions in compliance with Art. X, Sec. 29 (F) of the state constitution. Effective July 1, 2024. (Amends R.S. 11:710(A)(4)(b); Adds R.S. 11:710.1(G))

ACT 46/SB1 – Price - RETIREMENT SYSTEMS: **Provides relative to transfers of service credit between systems.** Retains present law but clarifies the meaning of "employer contributions" to exclude excess contributions in certain circumstances. Effective date June 30, 2024. (Amends R.S. 11:143(C)(2))

## SCHOOLS/LOCAL SUPERINTENDENT

ACT 193/HB112 – Weyble - SCHOOLS/LOCAL SUPERINTDT: Provides for the consideration of **student achievement in literacy and math** in the evaluation of local school superintendents. Requires a superintendent's contract to provide that he is subject to a performance evaluation and that 15% of the evaluation shall be based on evidence of growth in student achievement by the end of the third grade in literacy and 15% of the evaluation shall be based on evidence of growth in student achievement by the end of the third grade in mathematics. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:54(B)(1)(b)(i)(aa))

## LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS

ACT 204/HB188. – Wyble - SCHOOLS/BOARDS: **Requires local elected school board members to meet certain criteria prior to qualifying.** Applicable to service as a member of an elected school board, provides that possession of a high school diploma is required for eligibility and disqualifies persons who have been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to certain crimes. Provides as follows: (1) Adds that a person shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent in order to be eligible for membership on a school board. (2) Provides that any person who has been convicted of or has pled nolo contendere to a crime listed in present law (R.S. 15:587.1(C)) is not eligible to serve on a school board. (Amends R.S. 17:52(E)(1); Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 17:52(E)(1); Adds R.S. 17:52(F))

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS OF BOARDS**

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 103 – Johnson - PUBLIC MEETINGS: **Requires certain public bodies to broadcast meetings live via television or the internet** .Requires each school board and parish governing authority in a parish with a population of 25,000 or more to broadcast live all its public proceedings in meetings, including its committee meetings. Requires each governing authority of a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more to broadcast live all its city council meetings including city council committee meetings, but specifies that there is no requirement to broadcast a committee meeting where members are volunteers. Defines "broadcast live" as the publicly available distribution of audio and video of the meeting in real or near real time via the internet or television broadcast. Further excludes executive sessions from the requirement to broadcast live and provides that the failure of a public body subject to this law to broadcast live due to a technological failure beyond the control of the public body or its ability to resolve timely shall not be a violation of present and this law (Open Meetings Law). Requires public bodies subject to the requirement to broadcast live to include on its meeting notice sufficient information to enable the public to locate the broadcast for viewing. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 42:23; Adds R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(c))

\_\_\_\_\_ HB 446 – Hilferty - PUBLIC MEETINGS: **Provides relative to notifications of public meetings and duties of public bodies and the commissioner of administration relative thereto**. Requires a public body to provide notice of a meeting to a person so requesting at the same time and same manner it is provided to the members of the public body and to submit notice of each meeting to the commissioner of administration for inclusion on the boards and commissions website. Requires the commissioner to provide for the capability for members of the public to request and receive electronic notifications of meetings. provides that the public body shall give notice to any member of the public or the news media who requests notice of such meetings by providing the notice to the requestor at the same time and in the same manner as it is given to members of the public body and otherwise retains present law. Further requires public bodies subject to present law (R.S. 42:19(A)) to submit the notice to the commissioner of administration in the manner provided by present and this law (R.S. 49:1303 and 1305.1) This law (R.S. 49:1305.1) additionally requires all other public bodies that give notice of meetings pursuant to present law (R.S. 42:19(A)) to submit notice of meetings to the commissioner of administration electronically in the manner required by the commissioner for inclusion on the website in an easily searchable format. Further requires the commissioner to provide for the capability for members of the public to request and receive electronic notifications of meetings. Effective 8/1/2024). (Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(b); Adds R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 49:1305.1)

## **PUBLIC MEETINGS OF BOARDS**

ACT 191/HB95 – Johnson - PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides for the use of a **consent agenda by “certain” school boards** and parish governing authorities.

Authorizes school boards and governing authorities of parishes **with a population of 125,000 or more** to utilize a consent agenda during certain public meetings. Provides the present law exception applies to the following:

- (1) The governing authority of a parish with a population of 125,000 or more.
- (2) The parish school board in a parish with a population of 125,000 or more.
- (3) The governing authority of a municipality with a population of 100,000 or more. Effective 8/1/2024. (Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(dd))

## **SCHOOLS/FINANCE-MFP**

ACT 368/HB143 – Bacala - SCHOOLS/FINANCE-MFP: **Authorizes the state superintendent of education to assign a chief operating officer to research and make recommendations relative to the financial practices of local school systems that fail to comply with the minimum instructional expenditure requirement in the MFP formula.**

Provides the following and requires BESE to adopt rules for this law’s implementation:

- (1) Authorizes the **state superintendent** of education to assign a chief operating officer (COO) to make recommendations relative to the financial practices of local school systems that fail for two consecutive years to comply with this expenditure requirement.
- (2) Requires the superintendent to include the COO's findings in any report he makes to BESE relative to system compliance with this requirement.
- (3) Requires local school boards to develop compliance plans based on the COO's recommendations and submit them to the **state superintendent**, and provides that plan implementation is contingent on his approval.
- (4) Provides that the COO shall be a contract employee who serves on a temporary basis as determined by the superintendent, shall not be a permanent employee of the department, and shall not receive a state salary or associated benefits. Effective 8/1/2024. (Adds R.S. 17:22.1)

## **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**ACT 334/SB350 – Edmonds - SCHOOLS: Provides relative to charter schools.**

Changes the short cite for Chapter 42 of Title 17 from "Charter School Demonstration Programs Law" to "Louisiana Public Charter School Law". Removes authorization of experimentation from city and parish school boards and further allows for authorization of school choice options for parents, teachers, and pupils through creation of innovative kinds of independent public charter schools. Defines "autonomy" as, unless mutually agreed upon by the chartering authority and charter school, or otherwise required or prohibited by law, the charter school shall have independent operational decision making authority in the areas including but not limited to: (1) School programming, instruction, curriculum, materials, texts, calendars, and schedules; (2) Personnel, employment, salaries and benefits, educator certification and evaluation, performance management, participation in retirement planning, and collective bargaining; (3) Budgeting, purchasing, procurement, contracts, food service, and management of transportation. Provides that the applicant must also provide notice of application submission for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school to the state Department of Education. Provides that a charter school must have the autonomy necessary to manage its educational programming and daily operations in accordance with law, policy, and contract. Provides for extending the protections and liability limitations as required in state law that is applicable to public schools, public school officers and employees to charter schools, its officers and employees. (gov sig) (Amends R.S. 17:3971, 3972(A), (B)(1)(intra para) and (B)(1)(c), 3973(1), and 3983(A)(2)(a)(i);

**ACT 172/SB316 – Miguez - SCHOOLS: Provides relative to charter schools.**

Changes the initial charter term from a maximum of four years to a maximum of five years. Changes review time frame from the end of the third year to the end of the fourth year. Specifies that criteria for renewal include academic performance and progress indices and distinguish between schools with and without selective admissions criteria as well as those with alternative educational models. Allows a charter authorizer to extend the charter contract term by the same length of time as the impacting occurrence in instances where the school does not receive a school performance score, the charter school qualifies as a "severe impact school" as defined by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, or in other extraordinary circumstances provided in the policy of the charter authorizer. Adds that as an alternative to revocation, the charter authority may reconstitute the governing body of the charter holder under specific conditions. (govsig) (Amends R.S. 17:3992(A)(1) and (2)(b) and (D) and 3998(B); adds R.S. 17:3992(A)(2)(d) and (E)

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HB 708 – Freiberg - **SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Removes requirements that charter schools meet a certain threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities and economically disadvantaged students relative to its total student enrollment.** Changes the threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities (other than gifted or talented) and economically disadvantaged students relative to their total student enrollment from 85% to 70%. Adds that, if the aggregate student enrollment data for all of the charter schools located within a school system meet this enrollment requirement, every charter school located within the school system shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirement. Revises present law relative to charter proposals as follows: (1) Present law precludes the exclusion of students based on certain criteria. This law adds being economically disadvantaged to these criteria. (2) Present law requires a description of how a charter school fulfills present law purposes. This law includes consideration of how to serve the best interests of economically disadvantaged students in this requirement. (3) Present law requires a description of a school's education program. This law adds how the program will meet the educational needs of economically disadvantaged students and students with exceptionalities to this requirement. Provides additional lottery procedures including parental notification. Prohibits a charter school from requiring parents to disclose income and economically disadvantaged status prior to enrollment unless otherwise required by law. Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to: (1) Develop rules for determining a charter school's compliance with proposed law application and enrollment transparency requirements. (2) Provide for a process to investigate allegations of discriminatory practices of a charter school. (3) Annually produce a status report regarding enrollment percentages of economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Authorizes giving enrollment preference to economically disadvantaged students whose parents have disclosed this status. Effective 8/1/2024.

ACT 364/HB78 – Carver – **SCHOOLS/CHARTER: Authorizes the initial proposal for a charter school with a corporate partner to be made to the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) as a Type 2 charter school proposal and broadens the definition of a corporate partner.** Broadens the definition of "corporate partner" to include regional airports and any federal or state entity or agency, including public postsecondary education institutions. Also modifies the definition to include entities that have either donated or provided such facilities or improvements to a charter school. Authorizes proposals for schools with corporate partners to be made initially to BESE as Type 2 charter school proposals. Effective 8/1/2024.



Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry speaks during a press conference after the 2024 legislative session ends 'sine die', Monday, June 3, 2024.