

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 214

BY SENATOR JACKSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA. Provides relative to individual graduation plans and high school curriculum options. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.2(B)(1), (C), and (D), 183.3(C), and 2925(A) and (B),

3 and to enact R.S. 17:2926(C), relative to individual graduation plans and curriculum

4 options; to provide for a student's parent or legal guardian be provided certain

5 information and approve the student's plan; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.2(B)(1), (C), and (D), 183.3(C), and 2925(A) and (B) are

8 hereby amended and reenacted, and R.S. 17:2926(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §183.2. Career option description

10 * * *

11 B.(1) If the student, for any two of the three most recent school years, or for

12 a student in high school, the two most recent administrations of any state-established

13 assessments required for graduation, has not otherwise met state-established

14 benchmarks on required state assessments, the student's Individualized Education

15 Program team, **with the written approval of the student's parent or legal**

16 **guardian**, shall have the option of determining an alternative pathway to graduation

17 for the student.

* * *

C. Throughout high school, each student shall pursue the curriculum required for his chosen major by his school and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or, for a student with an exceptionality as defined in R.S. 17:1942(B), except a student identified as gifted or talented and who has no other exceptionality, who meets the eligibility criteria as provided in Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section, as determined by the student's Individualized Education Program team, if applicable, **and approved in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian.**

D. Students shall, **with the written approval of a parent or legal guardian,** be able to change from one major to another at the end of any school semester.

§183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

* * *

C.**(1)** Each city, parish, and other local public school board shall submit a proposed curriculum to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval. Such curriculum shall comply with the provisions of Subsection B of this Section and the provisions of R.S. 17:261 through 280.

(2) Each school with an approved career major program, shall annually conduct an informational meeting for the parents and legal guardians of students enrolled in the eighth grade regarding the approved curriculum.

* * *

§2925. Individual graduation plans

A.(1) By the end of the eighth grade, every student, with the assistance of his parent or ~~other legal custodian~~ **guardian** and school counselor, and for a student with an exceptionality as defined in R.S. 17:1942(B), except a student identified as gifted or talented and who has no other exceptionality, the student's Individualized Education Program team, if applicable, shall begin to develop an Individual Graduation Plan to guide the next academic year's course work and to assist the student in exploring educational and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary education decisions as part of an overall postsecondary

1 plan.

2 (2) By the end of the eighth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan
3 or the student's Individualized Education Program, if applicable, shall list the
4 required core courses to be taken through the tenth grade and shall identify the
5 courses to be taken in the first year of high school. Students who fail to meet the
6 standard for promotion to the ninth grade, pursuant to policies adopted by the State
7 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall have any necessary remedial
8 courses included in their Individual Graduation Plan. ~~The plan shall be reviewed~~
9 ~~annually and updated as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each year until~~
10 ~~all required core courses are completed.~~

11 (3) By the end of the tenth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan,
12 based on the student's academic record, talents, and interests, shall outline high
13 school graduation requirements relevant to the student's chosen postsecondary goals.
14 Each student, with the assistance of his parent or ~~other~~ legal **custodian guardian** and
15 school counselor, shall choose the high school curriculum framework and related
16 graduation requirements that best meet his postsecondary goals. Each student's
17 Individual Graduation Plan or the student's Individualized Education Program, if
18 applicable, shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful
19 completion of a standard diploma ~~and shall be reviewed annually and updated or~~
20 ~~revised as needed.~~

21 (4) The Individual Graduation Plan shall be sufficiently flexible to allow the
22 student to, **with the written approval of a parent or legal guardian**, change his
23 program of study, yet be sufficiently structured to ensure that the student will meet
24 the high school graduation requirements for his chosen major or the requirements of
25 the student's Individualized Education Program, if applicable, and be qualified for
26 admission to a postsecondary education institution or to enter the workforce.

27 (5) Each student's Individual Graduation Plan shall be **reviewed annually**
28 **and revised as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each year until all**
29 **required core courses are completed.**

1 **(6) Upon completion of the review, the plan shall be** signed by the student,
2 his parent or other legal ~~custodian~~ **guardian**, and the school counselor.

3 **(7) Prior to revising a student's individual graduation plan, the school**
4 **counselor shall meet with the student's parent or legal guardian to explain the**
5 **possible impacts the revisions to the plan might have on the student's**
6 **graduation requirements and postsecondary education goals. Any revisions to**
7 **a student's plan shall be approved in writing by the student's parent or legal**
8 **guardian.**

9 B. To provide a foundation for the development of the Individual Graduation
10 Plan, schools shall ~~provide career~~:

11 **(1) Provide career** awareness and exploration activities to all students in
12 grades six through eight that create linkages between what a student does in school
13 and what he wants to achieve in life. Such activities shall include career interest
14 inventories and information to assist them in the career decision making process and
15 may include job shadowing, job mentoring, and job internships.

16 **(2) Hold an informational meeting for the parents and legal guardians**
17 **of students enrolled in eighth through twelfth grade to provide information**
18 **regarding graduation requirements and curriculum choices. The meeting shall**
19 **be held in conjunction with the scheduling of courses for the next academic**
20 **year. Notice of the meeting shall be made through available means of**
21 **communication, including the school's automatic call system.**

22 * * *

23 §2926. Student guidance and counseling; training and professional development

24 * * *

25 **C. The state Department of Education shall develop materials regarding**
26 **high school curriculum frameworks, graduation requirements, and relevant**
27 **postsecondary education and career opportunities. The materials shall be**
28 **provided to each school for use in the annual meeting with parents and legal**
29 **guardians required by R.S. 17:2925.**

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 5 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 214 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Jackson

Present law (R.S. 17:183.1-183.5) provides for the high school career option and associated curriculum and graduation requirements.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires written authorization of a student's parent or legal guardian prior to changing a student's options.

Proposed law requires each school with an approved career major program to hold an annual informational meeting to inform the parents and legal guardians of all 8th graders of high school curriculum choices.

Present law (R.S. 17:2921-2931) provides for seamless connections between grades pre-k-12 and postsecondary education and the workplace.

Present law requires each student to have an individual graduation plan that is signed by the student, the student's parent or legal guardian, and the school counselor and requires it to be reviewed annually.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires each student, his parent or legal guardian, and his school counselor to annually sign the student's individual graduation plan. Further requires the student's parent or legal guardian to approve in writing any changes to the student's individual graduation plan.

Proposed law requires each school with students in grades 8-12 to annually hold an informational meeting for students' parents and legal guardians on graduation requirements and school curriculum choices. Further requires the notice of the meeting be made through all means available, including the school's automatic call system.

Proposed law requires the state Department of Education to develop materials regarding high school curricula frameworks, graduation requirements, and relevant postsecondary education and career opportunities and that the materials be provided to each school for use in the annual meeting with parents and legal guardians required in conjunction with scheduling students classes.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.2(B)(1), (C), and (D), 183.3(C), 2925(A) and (B); adds R.S. 17:2926(C))