

SENATE BILL NO. 214

BY SENATOR JACKSON

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

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.

18 * * *

19 C. Throughout high school, each student shall pursue the curriculum required
20 for his chosen major by his school and approved by the State Board of Elementary
21 and Secondary Education or, for a student with an exceptionality as defined in R.S.
22 17:1942(B), except a student identified as gifted or talented and who has no other
23 exceptionality, who meets the eligibility criteria as provided in Paragraph (B)(1) of
24 this Section, as determined by the student's Individualized Education Program team,
25 if applicable, **and approved in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian**.

26 D. Students shall, **with the written approval of a parent or legal guardian**,

1 be able to change from one major to another at the end of any school semester.

2 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

3 * * *

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

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

11 * * *

12 §2925. Individual graduation plans

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **(7) Prior to revising a student's individual graduation plan, the school**
 23 **counselor shall meet with the student's parent or legal guardian either in person**
 24 **or virtually to explain the possible impacts the revisions to the plan might have**
 25 **on the student's graduation requirements and postsecondary education goals.**
 26 **Any revisions to a student's plan shall be approved in writing by the student's**
 27 **parent or legal guardian.**

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

30 **(1) Provide career** awareness and exploration activities to all students in

1 grades six through eight that create linkages between what a student does in school
2 and what he wants to achieve in life. Such activities shall include career interest
3 inventories and information to assist them in the career decision making process and
4 may include job shadowing, job mentoring, and job internships.

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

11 * * *

12 §2926. Student guidance and counseling; training and professional development

13 * * *

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____