

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 246 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 105 Senator Abraham)

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides with respect to the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a), relative to student assessments; to
3 provide with respect to the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; to provide
4 with respect to standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
5 science, and social studies; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
11 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish
12 or city school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

13 * * *

14 F.(1) * * *

15 (c)(i) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
16 science, and social studies based on state content standards and rigorous student
17 achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade

1 level nationally shall be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and
 2 Secondary Education. Such tests in English language arts shall be administered, ~~at~~
 3 ~~a minimum,~~ in grades three through eight and at least once in grades nine through
 4 eleven. Such tests in mathematics shall be administered in grades three through
 5 eight and at least once in grades nine through eleven.

6 (ii) No later than the school year 2027-2028, such tests in science and
 7 social studies shall be administered in not more than four grade levels each. The
 8 science test shall not be given in the same grade levels as the social studies test.
 9 Nothing herein shall prohibit a student from retesting in any grade level.

10 * * *

11 (4)(a) In addition to the other requirements of this Subsection, the state
 12 Department of Education shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board
 13 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the level of achievement on certain tests
 14 or on certain portions of the tests given as required in this Subsection ~~in fourth and~~
 15 ~~eighth grades~~ as definitive of the level of the student's proficiency in mathematics,
 16 English language arts, science, and social studies. Fourth and eighth grade students
 17 shall be required to demonstrate proficiency on such tests in English language arts
 18 and mathematics in order to advance to grades five and nine, pursuant to rules
 19 adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance
 20 with the Administrative Procedure Act. Such proficiency levels shall be set with
 21 reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally. The
 22 department shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board of Elementary
 23 and Secondary Education, the nature and application of various intervention options
 24 in the case of a failure to demonstrate proficiency, which may include remediation,
 25 retention in grade, an alternative placement in succeeding grades, or any other option
 26 which will support a student's achieving the required proficiency level.

27 * * *

28 Section 2. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall investigate
 29 whether a nationally normed assessment or a criterion-referenced assessment may be used

1 to satisfy federal requirements for assessments used for the school and district accountability
 2 system and other ways to ensure comparability to rigorous expectations of other states.
 3 Based upon the investigation, a list shall be compiled of the available tests which satisfy the
 4 federal requirements. Not later than February 6, 2026, the State Board of Elementary and
 5 Secondary Education shall send a report to the Senate and House committees on education
 6 regarding the findings of such investigation. The report shall include, at a minimum, any
 7 recommendations regarding which nationally normed assessments or criterion-referenced
 8 assessments are available and recommended for implementation. Nothing in the report shall
 9 require the disclosure of any procurement information that would violate any provision of
 10 Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

11 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature of the governor or, if not
 12 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 13 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. if
 14 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 15 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 Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 246 Original 2025 Regular Session Abraham

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education to implement the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) with the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Provides for the administration of LEAP tests based on state content standards in English language arts, math, science, and social studies to students, at a minimum, in grades three through eleven. Requires BESE to determine by rule the adequate test score to determine successful performance on LEAP tests. Factors measurements of growth in student achievement on LEAP tests into school and district performance scores assigned pursuant to the school and district accountability system and into the evaluation of teachers and administrators.

Present law provides that standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are to be based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade level nationally.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that, no later than school year 2027-2028, the state Dept. of Education is to test in English language arts in grades three through eight and at least once in grades nine through 11. Provides that the mathematics test is to be administered in grades three through eight and at least once in grades nine through 11.

Provides that the science test and social studies test are to be administered in not more than four grade levels each and the science test is not to be given in the same grade levels as the social studies test.

Proposed law provides that BESE is to investigate whether a nationally normed assessment or a criterion-referenced assessment may be used to satisfy federal requirements for assessments used for the school and district accountability system and other ways to ensure comparability to rigorous expectations of other states. Provides that, based upon the investigation, a list shall be compiled of the available tests which satisfy the federal requirements. Provides that, not later than February 6, 2026, BESE is to send a report to the Senate and House committees on education regarding the findings of such investigation. Provides that the report is to include, at a minimum, any recommendations regarding which nationally normed assessments or criterion-referenced assessments are available and recommended for implementation. Provides that the report is not to disclose any procurement information that would violate any provision of the La. Procurement Code.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(c) and (4)(a))