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))