

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 80

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES OWEN

STUDENT/ASSESSMENT: Provides relative to the use of student assessment results for the 2020-2021 school year with respect to school and district accountability, teacher evaluation, and student promotion (Item #42)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(g) and to repeal R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(h) and (2),  
3 relative to student assessments; to prohibit the use of assessment results for certain  
4 purposes for the 2020-2021 school year; to provide relative to the assignment of  
5 letter grades to schools and school districts pursuant to the school and district  
6 accountability system for the 2020-2021 school year; and to provide for related  
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(g) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

13 \* \* \*

14 F.(1)

15 \* \* \*

16 (g) ~~For the 2016-2017~~ Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
17 for the 2020-2021 school year:

1 (i) The board shall collect results from the value-added model assessments  
 2 administered to students but shall not require the use of such assessments for  
 3 purposes of evaluating teacher performance as provided in R.S. 17:3902(B)(5) or  
 4 making placement decisions for fourth and eighth grade students. Each public  
 5 school governing authority may adopt policies pertaining to the use of such  
 6 assessment results in evaluations.

7 (ii) ~~The board shall use the statewide results from the assessments as the basis~~  
 8 ~~for a distribution of school and district letter grades that shall not vary from the~~  
 9 ~~distribution of letter grades resulting from the 2012-2013 assessment results, unless~~  
 10 ~~schools or districts improve in their performance such that the overall distribution~~  
 11 ~~of letter grades is better than the 2012-2013 distribution.~~ The board shall examine  
 12 the results of student value-added model assessments and school-level test data and  
 13 make such allowances in calculating school and district performance scores as the  
 14 board deems necessary and appropriate. The state superintendent of education shall  
 15 present a report relative to such results to the House Committee on Education and the  
 16 Senate Committee on Education, meeting separately or jointly, not later than May  
 17 30, 2021. The board shall prepare a petition for the United States Department of  
 18 Education for a waiver of the requirement of issuing letter grades for schools and  
 19 school districts for the 2020-2021 school year and submit the petition if it is the  
 20 opinion of the state superintendent of education that issuance of letter grades would  
 21 be detrimental to the state of Louisiana. The superintendent and the board shall  
 22 present a report to each committee, meeting separately or jointly, regarding this  
 23 decision not later than June 15, 2021.

\* \* \*

25 Section 2. R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(h) and (2) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

---

**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

---

HB 80 Engrossed

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Charles Owen

**Abstract:** For the 2020-2021 school year, limits the use of student assessment results for the purposes of teacher evaluation and student promotion and provides for waiving school and district letter grades under certain circumstances.

Present law provides for standards-based assessments of public school students for required subjects. Provides for the use of assessment results as a measure of student growth for the following purposes:

- (1) The evaluation of teachers.
- (2) The promotion of students to certain grade levels.
- (3) The school and district accountability system, through which the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) calculates school and district performance scores and assigns letter grades based on such scores.

Proposed law, for the 2020-2021 school year, provides the following relative to assessments:

- (1) Prohibits requiring results for present law purposes of student promotion or teacher evaluation. Authorizes public school governing authorities to adopt policies relative to the use of results in evaluations.
- (2) Requires BESE to examine results and school-level test data and make such allowances in calculating performance scores as it deems necessary and appropriate and provides the following:
  - (a) Requires the state superintendent to report to the education committees relative to results by May 30, 2021.
  - (b) Requires BESE to prepare a petition to U.S. Dept. of Education for a waiver relative to issuing letter grades and submit it if the state superintendent deems that such issuance would be detrimental to the state.
  - (c) Requires BESE and the superintendent to present a report to the education committees regarding this decision by June 15, 2021.

Proposed law also repeals obsolete present law relative to assessments.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(g); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(F)(1)(h) and (2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Relative to school and district letter grades:
  - (a) Remove proposed law subjecting the assignment of school and district letter grades to legislative approval.

- (b) Require BESE to prepare a petition to U.S. Dept. of Education for a waiver relative to issuing letter grades and submit it if the state superintendent deems that such issuance would be detrimental and require BESE and the superintendent to present a report to the education committees regarding this decision by June 15, 2021.
- 2. Extend deadline for superintendent's 2021 report to education committees relative to assessment results from the end of April to the end of May.