



deduction, exemption, or rebate.

Proposed law provides that a student shall be initially eligible for an account if he is enrolled in a Louisiana public school in the third grade and meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Is not reading on grade level, as determined by the results of current school year literacy assessments and update reports as provided in present law (R.S. 17:24.9).
- (2) Submits a timely application.
- (3) The student's parent signs an agreement promising all of the following:
  - (a) To provide an education for the participating student in at least the subjects of English language arts, math, social studies, and science.
  - (b) Not enroll the student in a public school while participating in the program.
  - (c) To use account funds only for qualified education expenses of the participating student.
  - (d) To comply with all program requirements.

Proposed law further provides that a participating student:

- (1) Is eligible until he enrolls in a public school, he receives a high school diploma or its equivalent, or his account is closed.
- (2) Is prohibited from participating concurrently in the RESA program and the Course Choice Program, the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities, or the Tuition Donation Credit Program.

Proposed law provides that to be eligible to participate, a school shall:

- (1) Be approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved by BESE.
- (2) Comply with federal nondiscrimination requirements.
- (3) Satisfy any other criteria set by BESE.

Proposed law requires BESE to adopt rules to set eligibility criteria for service providers. Further provides that to be eligible to participate in the program, a school or service provider shall apply to DOE and, if determined to be eligible, accept RESA funds for providing services covered as qualified education expenses.

Proposed law requires, if a student would have been entitled to special education services in his

resident school system, his parent to acknowledge in writing that he agrees to accept only such services available in the participating school. Proposed law further requires participating schools to meet certain criteria to be eligible to offer such services.

Proposed law provides that a participating school shall not discriminate against a child with special educational needs during the admissions process, but that the participating school is only required to offer services it already provides or services it can provide with minor adjustments. Proposed law further requires DOE to provide information relative to special education services to parents prior to the enrollment process.

Proposed law requires the DOE to develop a process for the annual administration of assessments to participating students and to provide the results of such examinations to parents.

Proposed law requires DOE, by April 30th annually, to submit a report to the House and Senate education committees and the Jt. Legislative Committee on the Budget regarding program implementation.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:4037.1 - 4037.8)