

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 163

BY SENATOR HEWITT

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

TEACHERS. Requires numeracy professional development for certain teachers. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:24.13 and 3996(B)(75), relative to numeracy skills professional

3 development; to require numeracy skills training for certain teachers; to provide

4 reporting on the training; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.13 and 3996(B)(75) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§24.13. Numeracy professional development; purpose; requirements;**

8 **reporting; funding**

9 **A. As used in this Section:**

10 **(1) "Approved professional development course" means a numeracy**

11 **skills instruction course designed for the professional development of educators**

12 **that includes information on instructing students regarding the vertical**

13 **alignment of mathematical concepts and the blending of concepts, procedures,**

14 **strategies, problem-solving, and disposition.**

15 **(2) "Teacher" means each fourth through eighth grade public school**

16 **teacher who teaches mathematics.**

17 **B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the state**

1           Department of Education shall:

2                   (1) Not later than March 1, 2024, develop a list of approved professional  
3           development courses.

4                   (2) Not later than August 1, 2025, require each teacher to successfully  
5           complete at least one approved professional development course and provide  
6           documentation to the teacher's employing school. A teacher who provides  
7           documentation that the teacher successfully completed an approved  
8           professional development course within five years prior to August 1, 2025, shall  
9           be considered in compliance with the provisions of this Paragraph. Courses  
10           completed more than five years prior to August 1, 2025, shall not be used to  
11           fulfill the requirements of this Paragraph.

12                   (3) Require any teacher hired after July 31, 2025, to provide  
13           documentation to the employing school of successful completion of an approved  
14           professional development course within two years of the date of employment.

15                   (4)(a) On May 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, require each city, parish,  
16           or other local public school board to report to the department the number and  
17           percentage of teachers who have successfully completed an approved  
18           professional development course.

19                   (b) The data required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be  
20           included in the department's school progress profiles required by R.S. 17:3911  
21           and 3912.

22                   C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt  
23           rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the  
24           provisions of this Section.

25                   D. The effectiveness of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to  
26           the designation and allocation of funds by the state Department of Education;  
27           however, no state funds or obligated federal funds shall be used to implement  
28           the provisions of this Section.

29                   \*       \*       \*

1 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

2 \* \* \*

3 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
4 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
5 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
6 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
7 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
8 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
9 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

10 \* \* \*

11 **(75) Numeracy professional development, R.S. 17:24.13.**

12 \* \* \*

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

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DIGEST

SB 163 Original                      2023 Regular Session                      Hewitt

Proposed law requires each public school teacher who teaches fourth through eighth grade mathematics to successfully complete a foundational numeracy skills professional development course that is approved by the state Department of Education (LDOE).

Proposed law requires, not later than March 1, 2024, the LDOE to develop a list of approved professional development courses.

Proposed law requires, by August 1, 2025, each teacher to successfully complete at least one of the approved professional development courses and provide documentation of the successful completion to the employing school. Further provides that teachers who provide documentation of completion of an approved program within five years prior to August 1, 2025, will be considered in compliance.

Proposed law requires each newly hired teacher to document successful completion of an approved program to the employing school within two years of the date of employment.

Proposed law requires, beginning May 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, that each city,

parish, or other local school board report to LDOE the number and percentage of teachers who have successfully completed an approved course. Further requires the data to be reported on LDOE's school progress profiles.

Proposed law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Present law provides for public charter schools and provides for requirements for those schools.

Proposed law requires public charter schools to comply with provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the effectiveness of the provisions of proposed law is subject to the designation and allocation of funds by the LDOE and that no state or obligated federal funds shall be used to implement proposed law.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:24.13 and 3996(B)(75))