
DIGEST

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HB 78 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Hughes

Abstract: Provides relative to school facilities preservation and systemwide needs programs.

School Facilities Preservation

Present law establishes a school facilities preservation program in school districts in which failing schools were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District (RSD) in accordance with a specified provision of present law. Proposed law retains present law.

For purposes of present law relative to the program, present law defines "school" as the following: any public school with a unique site code assigned by the state Department of Education (DOE). Proposed law expands the definition to include any educational program that serves public school students on a school board campus pursuant to a partnership with the school board as defined by school board policy governing school facilities preservation.

Capital Improvement Fund

Present law requires the school board of each district in the program to establish a capital improvement fund from which the board shall make grants to schools to finance preservation, improvements, capital repairs, construction, and replacement of certain facilities. Requires the school board to adopt policies for the administration of the fund. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that facilities that were constructed prior to Sept. 1, 2005, and that have not received a renovation exceeding half the value of the facility's replacement cost since that date are eligible for grants from the fund. Proposed law removes these eligibility criteria.

Systemwide Needs Program

Present law establishes a systemwide needs program in school districts in which failing schools were transferred to the jurisdiction of the RSD in accordance with a specified provision of present law. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the school district to create a special fund to dedicate money to the program. Provides for the annual deposit into the fund of \$120 per student in the district less the district's expenditures that year for costs identified in present law relative to certain legacy expenses. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the school board to create an office to manage and oversee the program. From the special fund, requires \$10 per student be dedicated to the office. Authorizes the school board to adjust this per-student amount.

To the extent that funds are available, the office shall perform the following:

- (1) Oversee the superintendent's improvement plans provided for in present law.
- (2) Report on systemwide needs program performance data.
- (3) Track plan and program outputs, performance outcomes, and expenditure of funds.
- (4) Monitoring of the services offered by those awarded funds and track performance objectives.
- (5) Administrative tasks related to the competitive process for awarding funds.
- (6) Oversee contract management.

Present law provides that the school district superintendent shall implement an approved plan by awarding funds through a competitive process according to policies developed by the school board. Funds may be expended directly by the district. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits funds from being used to pay for personnel or operating expenditures. Proposed law removes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:100.11(G)(1) and (I)(2) and 100.12)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Amend regarding education programs that are included in the definition of school.