

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 99 (SB 81)

2023 Regular Session

McMath

New law allows the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop an associate educator program, whereby a governing authority of a public elementary or secondary school may authorize a program participant to serve as a teacher.

New law requires BESE to develop rules for the program through the APA and allows the rules to make further provisions with regard to participant qualifications and requirements. Further provides that the governing authority may establish stricter participation requirements than established by new law or BESE rules.

New law requires a participant to have an associate's degree, be enrolled and remain continuously enrolled in an undergraduate teacher education program for the purpose of obtaining a bachelor's degree, be at least 25 years of age, and meet all other qualifications provided for in new law, board rules, or the requirements of the local governing authority.

New law limits a participant to teaching only in the content area related to the participant's associate's degree and prohibits the participant from teaching in a class for students with exceptionalities, unless it is a class for gifted or talented students.

New law provides that for a participant who is enrolled in an approved teacher education program that the hours spent teaching as an associate educator shall count toward the required student teaching hours.

New law limits the number of participants in the program that may be employed by a governing authority to ten percent of the teaching staff of the governing authority. Further limits the salary of a participant to not more than 75% of the average yearly classroom teacher salary of the employing school system.

New law requires, subject to appropriation, the governing authority to assign a mentor teacher to each participant for the purpose of providing on-site training, assistance, and feedback. Further requires the participant to participate in weekly teacher collaborations.

New law requires the governing authority to conduct a criminal history record check prior to allowing a participant to work as a teacher.

New law requires the state board to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and report its findings and conclusions to the legislature no later than December 29, 2028.

New law terminates the provisions of new law on December 31, 2033.

Effective June 6, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 17:7.8)