

Relative to reporting, instructional, and other requirements for school employees, school governing authorities, and schools:

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Existing law requires public schools that include any of the grades kindergarten through eight to provide daily physical activity for students. Prior law required each such school to report to its school board, and each school board to report to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), annually relative to compliance with existing law. New law deletes these reporting requirements.

Existing law provides for student examinations relative to sight, hearing, and dyslexia. Prior law required school boards to submit a written report of all such examinations to the state superintendent. New law deletes this reporting requirement.

Existing law provides procedures with respect to denying meals to students, including requiring documentation. Prior law required the governing authority of each public elementary school to report annually to the state superintendent and the House and Senate education committees relative to documented instances of such denials. New law deletes this reporting requirement and instead requires that such documentation be provided upon request to the state superintendent, such committees, or the secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

LEGISLATIVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Prior law required school boards to submit to the speaker of the La. House of Representatives and the president of the La. Senate a list of high school students who had attained a certain grade point average so that certain students could receive the Legislative Academic Achievement Award. Required recognition of an award recipient with a certificate and authorized presentation of such certificate by area legislators at the recipient's school. New law repeals prior law.

INSTRUCTION

Existing law requires instruction on the state's safe haven relinquishments law to be provided each school year to high school students. Prior law limited the applicability of the requirement to students enrolled in Health Education and required that at least 30 minutes of instruction be provided each school year. New law broadens the applicability of the requirement to all high school students and deletes the requirements relative to the minimum number of minutes of instruction and that the instruction be provided each school year.

Existing law requires adoption awareness instruction for high school students. Prior law required, for public high schools, such instruction in Health Education or any other course BESE deemed appropriate, provided it was a prerequisite for graduation. Prior law required such instruction for nonpublic high schools in a manner that was the sole discretion of the principal. New law, for both public and nonpublic high schools, requires such instruction in a manner that is deemed appropriate by the principal and does not require that it be provided in any particular course.

Existing law requires that all public high schools offering home economics programs provide instruction in parenthood education. Prior law required that such instruction be given for at least one semester in accordance with the course of study and materials prescribed by BESE. New law removes the requirements relative to the minimum duration of instruction and that the course of study and materials be BESE prescribed.

Prior law authorized BESE to provide for the teaching of kindness to dumb animals in public schools. New law repeals prior law.

PARENT ORIENTATION

Existing law requires completion of a parent orientation program by the parent of any child entering public school for the first time. Prior law required that this program be at least three hours in duration. New law removes this minimum duration requirement.

BULLYING

Existing law requires each public school governing authority to create a program to provide training for school employees with respect to bullying. Prior law required at least four hours of training each year for all school employees, including bus drivers. New law applies a four-hour requirement only to new employees, provides an annual two-hour requirement for other school employees, and provides that only employees who have contact with students are subject to these training requirements.

Existing law requires that in an investigation of bullying, before a student under the age of 18 is interviewed, his parent or guardian shall be notified and have the opportunity to attend. New law provides that the student may be interviewed after three failed attempts to reach the parents or guardians in a 48-hour period.

TEACHER BILL OF RIGHTS

Existing law provides for a teacher bill of rights. Prior law included the right of a teacher to be free from excessively burdensome disciplinary paperwork. New law modifies this right to grant teachers the right to complete only paperwork that is not excessively burdensome and that, if required by law or regulation, adheres to the law or regulation and does not result in overly cumbersome interpretations of that law or regulation; grants teachers the additional right to be afforded time during the school day or week to collaborate with other teachers.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 17:17.1(A), 81(R)(1), 192.1(C), 235.1(B)(1), 263, 279(A), 416.13(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (b)(intro. para.) and (D)(intro. para.) and (3)(intro. para.) and (d)(iii), 416.18(A)(8), and 2112(A)(3); Adds R.S. 17:416.18(A)(10); Repeals R.S. 17:177 and 266)