

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 669

BY SENATOR CROWE

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Provides for the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission to develop content and performance standards, curriculum, and assessments for elementary and secondary education. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4 and to enact Subpart B-2 of Part 1 of Chapter 1 of Title
3 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:34.1
4 through 34.10, relative to elementary and secondary education; to provide for content
5 and performance standards; to provide for curriculum; to provide for assessments;
6 to provide for legislative intent; to require state control over content and performance
7 standards; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to provide for
8 prohibitions; to provide for a commission to oversee the development of curriculum,
9 content and performance standards, and assessments; to provide for membership of
10 the commission; to provide for task forces to develop content and performance
11 standards; to provide for task forces to develop curriculum; to provide for a task
12 force to develop assessments; to provide for membership of each task force; to
13 provide for stakeholder input; to provide for deadlines; to provide for legislative
14 approval; and to provide for related matters.
15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
16 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4 is hereby amended and reenacted and Subpart B-2 of Part
17 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S.

1 17:34.1 through 34.10 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; **Educational Excellence**
3 **for Louisiana;** statewide standards for required subjects; Louisiana
4 Educational Assessment Program; parish or city school board
5 comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

6 A. **The legislature finds the following:**

7 **(1) That parents and citizens of Louisiana desire rigorous content and**
8 **performance standards and clear and consistent educational curriculums for**
9 **Louisiana students that are superior to the rest of the nation, respect Louisiana**
10 **values, and will prepare students for postsecondary education and career**
11 **advancement.**

12 **(2) That in 2010, the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a**
13 **product of a multi-state consortium, was adopted in Louisiana for the subjects**
14 **of English language arts and mathematics, with no statutory authority from the**
15 **legislature and with no input from Louisiana classroom teachers or Louisiana**
16 **parents.**

17 **(3) That the multi-state consortium that developed the Common Core**
18 **State Standards simply provided a set of standards to be implemented with a**
19 **companion testing mechanism, which has yet to be fully developed, and no**
20 **curriculum. Because standards and tests necessarily dictate curriculum, the**
21 **lack of curriculum resulted in a lack of implementation in parishes that did not**
22 **have adequate resources or personnel and an often chaotic roll out in other**
23 **parishes that were lacking in guidance for implementation. The lack of**
24 **direction at the state-level regarding curriculum resulted in classroom teachers**
25 **searching aimlessly for curriculum and materials and led to the use of books**
26 **and materials that were often untested or violated the values of many Louisiana**
27 **parents in the various school districts.**

28 **(4) That monies that school districts have spent since 2010 for**
29 **professional development, as well as investments made in computers and other**

1 technology related to Common Core, are transferable and will prove to be a
2 benefit to the school districts as the districts transition toward a set of superior
3 and properly vetted content and performance standards that will be supported
4 by a well-reasoned and scholarly curriculum.

5 (5) That rigorous content and performance standards and high-quality
6 curriculum and assessments should be developed by the following:

7 (a) Persons who are accountable to the parents and citizens of the state
8 of Louisiana.

9 (b) Professionals who are the best and brightest Louisiana educators,
10 with oversight provided by the Legislature of Louisiana, by parents whose
11 children are the consumers of the educational product, and by other
12 stakeholders who are the beneficiaries of educational excellence.

13 B.(1) The state of Louisiana shall retain sole control over the
14 development, establishment, and revision of the content and performance
15 standards, curriculum, and assessments provided in this Section and in Subpart
16 B-2 of this Part.

17 (2) Neither the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
18 nor the Department of Education, nor any state official may join a consortium
19 or any other organization when participation in that consortium or organization
20 would cede any measure of control over any aspect of Louisiana public
21 elementary and secondary education to entities outside the state of Louisiana,
22 nor may any such person or entity condition or delay a decision regarding
23 content or performance standards, developed pursuant to this Section or
24 Subpart B-2 of this Part, on the decision of any consortium, organization, or
25 other state government.

26 C. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
27 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
28 clearly indicates a different meaning:

29 (1) "The Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program" means the

1 coordination of all existing statutory provisions and State Board of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education policies and guidelines to be implemented by the state
3 Department of Education which affect pupil performance with the development and
4 establishment of statewide content **and performance** standards **and curriculum** for
5 required subjects for the public elementary and secondary schools of this state, the
6 complete implementation of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program, the
7 involvement of all federal instructional programs, vocational programs, special
8 education programs, and teacher education programs in this state, and the pupil
9 progression plans for the public elementary and secondary school systems of this
10 state, **subject to the provisions of Subpart B-2 of this Part.**

11 (2) "The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program" means a process of
12 measuring pupil performance in relation to grade appropriate skills, state content
13 **and performance** standards **and curriculum as provided for in Subpart B-2 of**
14 **this** Part, and national educational indices.

15 (3) "Pupil progression plan" means the comprehensive plan developed and
16 adopted by each parish or city school board which shall be based on student
17 performance on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with goals and
18 objectives which are compatible with the Louisiana Competency-Based Education
19 Program ~~and~~ **developed in compliance with Subpart B-2 of this Part** which
20 supplements the minimum standards approved by the State Board of Elementary and
21 Secondary Education. A pupil progression plan shall require the student's mastery
22 of grade-appropriate skills before he or she can be recommended for promotion.

23 (4) "The statewide content **and performance** standards **and curriculum** for
24 required subjects" are **means a strategic and cohesive curriculum with the**
25 **required subjects taught in a grade level-by-grade level format along with**
26 **curriculum guides that contain grade-appropriate skills and competence,**
27 **suggested activities, suggested materials for instruction, properly vetted sample**
28 **activities, and recommended resources, in all subjects and include** statements
29 that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a

1 specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. Content **and**
 2 **performance** standards **and curriculum** shall represent the knowledge and skills
 3 needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the
 4 workplace, as determined by content experts, elementary and secondary educators
 5 and school leaders, postsecondary education leaders, and business and industry
 6 leaders, **as is provided for in Subpart B-2 of this Part.**

7 **(5) "Educational Excellence for Louisiana" (EEXL) means the**
 8 **educational initiative developed pursuant to Subpart B-2 of this Part.**

9 **BD.(1)** The Department of Education, with the approval of the State Board
 10 of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Louisiana Legislature, shall begin
 11 the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program, and the recommended
 12 effective date shall be January 1, 1980, and said program shall have as its purpose
 13 the coordination of all statutory provisions and State Board of Elementary and
 14 Secondary Education policies and guidelines to be implemented by the Department
 15 of Education which affect student performance.

16 **(2) Notwithstanding any provision of law or state regulation to the**
 17 **contrary, following legislative approval in R.S. 17:34.8 every public school**
 18 **governing authority shall begin implementing the Educational Excellence for**
 19 **Louisiana content and performance standards and assessments as provided in**
 20 **Subpart B-2 of this Part and may utilize the corresponding curriculum**
 21 **developed as provided in Subpart B-2 of this Part.**

22 **EE.** The Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program shall specifically
 23 coordinate the following programs in order to emphasize instructional planning and
 24 development of the instructional programs and services provided for the students in
 25 the public school systems of this state:

26 ~~(3)~~**(1)** In-service training programs for all teachers in the public schools as
 27 provided by R.S. 17:24.1.

28 ~~(4)~~**(2)** The continuing education program for teachers as provided by R.S.
 29 17:7.3.

1 ~~(5)~~(3)The teacher education programs in the colleges and universities in this
2 state through the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's authority to
3 approve teacher education programs and certification requirements.

4 ~~D~~F. The Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program shall also provide
5 for the coordination and involvement of all federal instructional programs such as
6 Chapter I programs, vocational programs, and special education programs; however,
7 the provisions of this Section shall not be construed to supersede the provisions of
8 Act 754 of the 1977 Regular Session with respect to the creation, operation, and
9 administration of special education programs in the state.

10 ~~E~~G. The state Department of Education shall, with the approval of the State
11 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, as part of the Louisiana
12 Competency-Based Education Program, develop and establish statewide content
13 standards for required subjects to be taught in the public elementary and secondary
14 schools of this state **as provided in Subpart B-2 of this Part**. The statewide content
15 standards for required subjects shall be implemented by the state Department of
16 Education as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
17 with recommendations prior to approval and advice from the educational personnel
18 in the public schools and colleges and universities of this state.

19 ~~F~~H.(1)(a) The Department of Education shall begin implementation of a
20 Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the State Board of
21 Elementary and Secondary Education.

22 (b) Developmental readiness student screening for placement and for
23 planning instruction shall occur upon initial school entry into kindergarten.

24 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
25 science, and social studies based on state content standards and rigorous student
26 achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade
27 level nationally, **subject to the provisions of Subpart B-2 of this Part and subject**
28 **to the prohibitions provided in Subsection M of this Section**, shall be
29 implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Such tests

1 shall be administered, at a minimum, in grades three through eleven.

2 (d) ~~Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year~~ **As provided in Subpart B-2**
3 **of this Part**, standards-based assessments implemented by the State Board of
4 Elementary and Secondary Education in English language arts and mathematics shall
5 be based on **the content and performance standards and curriculum as provided**
6 **in Subpart B-2 of this Part and which are equal to or superior to any other**
7 nationally recognized content standards that represent the knowledge and skills
8 needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the
9 workplace. Rigorous student achievement standards shall be set with reference to test
10 scores of the same grade levels nationally.

11 (e) The rigor of each standards-based assessment, at a minimum, shall be
12 comparable to national achievement tests, including but not limited to the National
13 Assessment of Education Progress.

14 (f) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon initial
15 implementation of the tests provided for in this Subsection, shall establish by rule
16 adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act the adequate test score
17 to determine successful performance of the student on each test provided for by this
18 Subsection.

19 ~~(3)~~**(2)**(a) In lieu of the standards-based assessments prescribed in
20 Subparagraphs (1)(c) and (d) of this Subsection, an alternate assessment shall be
21 provided for and administered only to those students with disabilities who meet
22 specific eligibility criteria developed by the state Department of Education and
23 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A
24 determination of whether any student meets the eligibility criteria established by the
25 state Department of Education shall be made by the student's Individual Education
26 Plan committee and shall be so noted on that student's Individual Education Plan.
27 The alternate assessment developed pursuant to this Paragraph shall be administered
28 on a schedule determined by the state Department of Education and approved by the
29 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The alternate assessment shall

1 be part of the Louisiana Education Assessment Program otherwise provided for in
2 this Subsection and the alternate assessment shall be used for information,
3 accountability, compliance, and planning purposes as provided by the State Board
4 of Elementary and Secondary Education.

5 (b)(i) In addition to the alternate assessment accommodations adopted to
6 meet the needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities, no later than
7 September 1, 2005, the state Department of Education, with approval of the State
8 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall develop modified achievement
9 standards and use alternative assessments to accommodate those students who are
10 assessed with persistent academic disabilities but who are likely to make significant
11 progress.

12 (ii) Students with persistent academic disabilities shall be allowed to take
13 academic assessments that are sensitive to measuring progress in their learning and
14 that recognize their individual needs. Academic assessments are to be geared
15 specifically toward accommodating students to enable them to perform on standards-
16 based assessments prescribed in Subparagraphs (1)(c) and (d) of this Subsection.
17 Such accommodations shall include at a minimum verbalized test questions and shall
18 provide for writing assistance of a scribe and any other accommodations deemed
19 appropriate by the student's Individual Education Plan committee. However, any
20 such accommodations shall not breach test security or invalidate the meaning of the
21 test score or the purpose of the test.

22 (iii) At each IEP meeting a written list of accommodations shall be discussed
23 and provided to the parent of each student with a disability.

24 ~~(4)~~**(3)**(a) In addition to the other requirements of this Subsection, the state
25 Department of Education shall establish, subject to the approval of the State Board
26 of Elementary and Secondary Education, the level of achievement on certain of the
27 tests or on certain portions of the tests given as required in this Subsection in fourth
28 and eighth grades as definitive of the level of the student's proficiency in
29 mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies. Fourth and eighth

1 grade students shall be required to demonstrate proficiency on such tests in order to
2 advance to grades five and nine, pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of
3 Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with the Administrative
4 Procedure Act. Such proficiency levels shall be set with reference to test scores of
5 students of the same grade level nationally. The department shall establish, subject
6 to the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
7 nature and application of various intervention options in the case of a failure to
8 demonstrate proficiency, which may include remediation, retention in grade, an
9 alternative placement in succeeding grades, or any other option which will support
10 a student's achieving the required proficiency level.

11 (b) In meeting the requirements of this Paragraph, the department, subject to
12 the approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall:

13 (i) Establish a process for consistently seeking and considering input from
14 teachers, administrators, city and parish school board members, legislators, parents,
15 business leaders, and other persons in the community in developing and establishing
16 the proficiency levels and the intervention options provided for in this Paragraph.

17 (ii) Develop a time line for: establishing the levels of achievement which
18 shall be indicative and definitive of student proficiency, establishing the intervention
19 options which proceed from failure of a student to achieve the level necessary to
20 demonstrate proficiency, and piloting such levels and interventions no later than the
21 1998-1999 school year.

22 (iii) Implement the provisions of this Paragraph fully by the 1999-2000
23 school year.

24 ~~G.I.~~ (1) Each city and parish school board shall appoint a committee which
25 shall be representative of the parents of the school district under the authority of such
26 school board. Each committee shall participate and have input in the development
27 of the pupil progression plans provided for in this Section. Each parish or city school
28 board shall develop and submit to the state Department of Education for approval by
29 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education a pupil progression plan

1 which shall be in accordance with the requirements of this Section and be based upon
2 student achievement, performance, and proficiency on tests required by this Section.
3 Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year and thereafter, approval by the State
4 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall not be required for a pupil
5 progression plan.

6 (2) Each parish or city school board plan for pupil progression shall be based
7 upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with the Louisiana
8 Competency-Based Education Program numerated in R.S. 17:24.4~~(B)~~**(D)**, which
9 comply with the provisions of R.S. 17:24.4~~(A)~~~~(3)~~**(C)****(3)**, and which supplement the
10 performance standards approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
11 Education.

12 (3)(a) Each local school board shall establish a policy regarding student
13 promotion or placement which shall comply with the provisions of this Section,
14 including the requirements for pupil progression plans.

15 (b) Particular emphasis shall be placed upon the student's proficiency in grade
16 appropriate skills which may be considered in promotion and placement; however,
17 each local school board shall establish a policy regarding student promotion or
18 placement.

19 (4)(a) The governing body of each school with students required by law or
20 a rule of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to participate in the
21 Louisiana Educational Assessment Program shall develop a policy with the
22 participation and input of the committee provided for in this Subsection which shall,
23 at a minimum, conform to any rule adopted by the State Board of Elementary and
24 Secondary Education regarding pupil promotion. Following this policy, each teacher
25 shall, on an individualized basis, determine promotion or placement of each student.
26 Each such governing body may review promotion and placement decisions in order
27 to ensure compliance with its established policy. Review may be initiated by the
28 governing body, the superintendent, or a student's parent or guardian. Those students
29 who fail to meet required achievement levels on the state administered standards-

1 based assessments of the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program shall be
2 offered education programs designed to accelerate progress that comply with
3 regulations adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
4 Such programs shall include, at a minimum, the offering of a summer school
5 remediation program to all students who do not meet the minimum achievement
6 level necessary to be fully promoted to the fifth or ninth grade as established by the
7 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education rule.

8 (b) Summer school remediation programs as required in this Section shall
9 meet minimum requirements as established by rule of the State Board of Elementary
10 and Secondary Education and shall be funded in part with a state appropriation
11 specifically for such purpose and in part with other funds available to each governing
12 body of schools required by this Paragraph to provide summer school remediation
13 programs. The Department of Education may allocate and disburse the money
14 appropriated for summer school remediation programs to such governing bodies at
15 the time the number of students who failed to meet the minimum required
16 achievement level is known, rather than on a cost reimbursement basis once the
17 summer school program is complete.

18 (c) Local school boards may require students who fail to meet the required
19 achievement level on a test necessary for promotion to the next grade to attend a
20 remediation program, including requiring attending the summer remediation
21 program, but shall exempt from such summer program any student whose parent or
22 guardian signs a form which states, at a minimum, all of the following:

23 (i) That such parent or guardian understands that the student has failed to
24 meet the required achievement level for promotion to the next grade.

25 (ii) That a summer school remediation program is being offered by the
26 district to improve the skills of students who have failed to meet the required
27 achievement level.

28 (iii) That the parent or guardian will take the responsibility of remediation to
29 help the student improve his skills necessary for meeting the required achievement

1 level on the test.

2 (iv) That the student will not be fully promoted to the next grade level unless
3 a retest is taken and the student obtains the required achievement level.

4 **HJ.** The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may establish
5 by rule adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act a procedure
6 whereby the state superintendent of education may grant a waiver allowing any
7 student with an exceptionality, as defined in R.S. 17:1942(B), who fails to meet the
8 required achievement level necessary for promotion to the next grade on a test
9 administered to students pursuant to this Section or policies adopted by the board
10 upon the request of the local superintendent of the school system in which the
11 student is enrolled in school, provided that the student meets certain criteria
12 established by the board relative to attendance, grades, and conduct.

13 **HK.** The state superintendent of education shall appoint a twelve-member task
14 force to study and identify the causes of low performance by students, including
15 students who are members of any ethnic minority, on statewide proficiency
16 examinations. The task force shall propose to the superintendent a plan to eliminate
17 the causes of low performance and assist students in improving their overall
18 educational skills.

19 **HL.** (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section or any other law to the
20 contrary, a public high school student with an exceptionality as defined in R.S.
21 17:1942(B), except a gifted or talented student, and who is not pursuing a high
22 school diploma shall not be administered any examination pursuant to this Section
23 or the Louisiana school and district accountability system, including the American
24 College Test, unless one or both of the following apply:

25 (a) The student's Individualized Education Plan indicates that the examination
26 is an appropriate assessment instrument for the student.

27 (b) The student's parent or legal guardian requests in writing that the student
28 be administered the examination.

29 (2) A student who is not administered an examination pursuant to Paragraph

1 (1) of this Subsection shall not be penalized for failure to take the examination. For
2 purposes of this Paragraph, prohibited penalties include but are not limited to:

3 (a) Withholding of credits toward graduation or denying a student the ability
4 to graduate.

5 (b) Denying a student the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular
6 activity.

7 (c) Denying a student the ability to advance to the subsequent grade level.

8 (3) The absence of test results due to the implementation of Paragraph (1) of
9 this Subsection shall not be factored into or negatively impact the performance score
10 or letter grade assigned to a school or school system, nor shall a school or school
11 system otherwise be penalized in any manner, provided that such absence does not
12 violate any federal law or requirement including the No Child Left Behind Act of
13 2001 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

14 **M. The state shall not mandate that any assessment be administered to**
15 **a student other than any of the following:**

16 **(1) The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program assessments that**
17 **currently exist, including applicable end of course tests.**

18 **(2) The American College Testing examination or the ACT WorkKeys**
19 **assessment.**

20 **(3) The National Assessment of Educational Progress.**

21 **(4) The EEXL Assessment adopted by the Educational Excellence for**
22 **Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature as provided in Subpart**
23 **B-2 of this Part.**

24 **N.(1) The content and performance standards, developed, adopted, and**
25 **approved pursuant to Subpart B-2 of this Part shall be applicable to all public**
26 **school students and to their respective school governing authorities.**

27 **(2) The curriculum guides and materials developed, adopted, and**
28 **approved pursuant to Subpart B-2 of this Part shall be made available to school**
29 **governing authorities in printed form and in an electronic format for optional**

1 use as provided for in R.S. 17:34.10(D).

2 * * *

3 SUBPART B-2. EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

4 FOR LOUISIANA COMMISSION

5 §34.1. Creation of commission; purpose

6 A. There is hereby created the Educational Excellence for Louisiana
7 Commission.

8 B. The commission shall serve as the accountability and advisory body
9 to oversee the development and adoption of the Educational Excellence for
10 Louisiana that shall be the state content and performance standards and
11 curriculum for English language arts and mathematics, pursuant to the
12 Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program and any assessments related
13 thereto, as provided in R.S. 17:24.4.

14 §34.2. Definitions.

15 As used in this Subpart, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
16 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
17 clearly indicates a different meaning:

18 (1) "Assessments" means the standards-based assessments provided for
19 in R.S. 17:24.4(H)(1)(d) and developed pursuant to this Subpart.

20 (2) "Content and performance standards and curriculum" means those
21 standards for performance related to this Subpart.

22 (3) "Commission" means the Educational Excellence for Louisiana
23 Commission.

24 (4) "Educational Excellence for Louisiana" or "EEXL" means the
25 initiative to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards and
26 assessments for English language arts and mathematics developed and
27 established pursuant to this Subpart for public elementary and secondary
28 schools and the curriculum that supports the statewide content and
29 performance standards developed and established pursuant to this Subpart and

1 made available in the manner provided for in R.S. 17:34.10(D).

2 (5) "EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force" means the group of
3 persons appointed to develop assessments pursuant to this Subpart to assess
4 student performance related to the content and performance standards. The
5 assessments shall be presented to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject
6 to legislative approval.

7 (6) "EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force" means the group of
8 persons appointed to develop curriculum pursuant to this Subpart that shall be
9 presented to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to legislative approval.

10 (7) "EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force" means the group of
11 persons appointed to develop content and performance standards pursuant to
12 this Subpart that shall be presented to the EEXL commission for adoption,
13 subject to legislative approval.

14 §34.3. Commissioners

15 A. The commission shall consist of twenty-one members, to be chosen
16 from among Louisiana citizens, who have demonstrated excellence in education,
17 or outstanding business leadership, or are parents who have demonstrated the
18 stature and ability to act effectively for the best interests of students.

19 B. Commissioners shall all be Louisiana citizens and shall be chosen as
20 follows:

21 (1) One person appointed by the governor, selected from a list of three
22 nominees submitted by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

23 (2) One person who is currently employed as a school superintendent,
24 selected by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.

25 (3) One person who is currently employed as a school principal, selected
26 by the Louisiana Association of Principals.

27 (4) One person who is currently a member of a school board, selected by
28 the Louisiana School Boards Association.

29 (5) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and

1 who has a minimum of five years experience in the classroom, selected by the
2 Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

3 (6) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and
4 who has a minimum of five years experience in the class room, selected by the
5 Louisiana Teachers Association.

6 (7) Two persons shall be selected by the Louisiana Parent-Teacher
7 Association who meet all of the following criteria:

8 (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a public school and is enrolled in
9 a grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.

10 (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed
11 official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government
12 that makes educational policy or directs education activities pursuant to any
13 provision of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

14 (8) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Family Forum who
15 meets all of the following criteria:

16 (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a school and is enrolled in a grade
17 level between kindergarten and grade twelve.

18 (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed
19 official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government
20 that makes educational policy or directs education activities pursuant to any
21 provision of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

22 (9) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Conference of Catholic
23 Bishops who meets all of the following criteria:

24 (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a Catholic school and is enrolled
25 in a grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.

26 (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed
27 official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government
28 that makes educational policy or directs education activities pursuant to any
29 provision of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1 **(10) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English**
2 **language arts or mathematics at a four-year Louisiana public postsecondary**
3 **education institution, to be selected by the commissioner of higher education.**

4 **(11) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English**
5 **language arts or mathematics at a Louisiana public postsecondary community**
6 **or technical college, to be selected by the commissioner of higher education.**

7 **(12) One person shall be appointed by the Public Affairs Research**
8 **Council.**

9 **(13) One person appointed by the governor, selected from a list of three**
10 **nominees submitted by the Council for A Better Louisiana.**

11 **(14) One person shall be appointed by the Louisiana Associated**
12 **Chamber of Commerce Executives.**

13 **(15) One person appointed by the governor, selected from a list of three**
14 **nominees submitted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.**

15 **(16) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and**
16 **who has a minimum of five years experience in the class room, appointed by the**
17 **Association of Professional Educators.**

18 **(17) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and**
19 **who has a minimum of five years, selected by the Louisiana Catholic School**
20 **Boards Association.**

21 **(18) Three persons shall be selected by the governor who meet all of the**
22 **following criteria:**

23 **(a) Is the parent of a child who attends a school and is enrolled in a**
24 **grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.**

25 **(b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed**
26 **official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government**
27 **that makes educational policy or directs education activities pursuant to any**
28 **provision of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.**

29 **C.(1) All vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner**

1 **as the original appointment.**

2 **(2) Each member of the commission shall serve without any additional**
3 **compensation over and above their normal salary or compensation from their**
4 **respective employer, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in**
5 **attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates**
6 **and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.**

7 **§34.4. Duties of the commission**

8 **A. The commission shall oversee the development of the state of**
9 **Louisiana's content and performance standards and curriculum provided for**
10 **by the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program, as well as any**
11 **corresponding assessments as set forth in R.S. 17:24.4 for English language arts**
12 **and mathematics. The content and performance standards and curriculum, as**
13 **well as the assessment for English language arts and mathematics, shall be**
14 **completed in the manner provided in Subsections H and G of this Section,**
15 **subject to approval by the legislature.**

16 **B.(1) The members of the commission shall call for an organizational**
17 **meeting no later than August 31, 2014, and shall elect a chairman and a vice**
18 **chairman to preside over the meetings of the commission.**

19 **(2) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a**
20 **quorum for the purposes of doing business.**

21 **(3) All official actions taken by the commission shall require a majority**
22 **of those members present at the meeting of the commission, so long as a quorum**
23 **is established.**

24 **(4) At the organizational meeting as provided for Paragraph (1) of this**
25 **Subsection, the commission shall notify the commissioner of higher education**
26 **and request that he provide a list of his appointments to the EEXL Standards**
27 **Specialists Task Force, as provided for in R.S. 17:34.5, within thirty days of his**
28 **receipt of the letter.**

29 **(5) At the organizational meeting as provided for Paragraph (1) of this**

1 Subsection, the commission shall notify the president of the Louisiana
2 Association of School Superintendents and request that he provide a list of the
3 association's appointments to the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force, as
4 provided for in R.S. 17:34.6, within thirty days of his receipt of the letter.

5 (6) At the organizational meeting, as provided for Paragraph (1) of this
6 Subsection, the commission shall notify the president of the Louisiana School
7 Board Association and request that he provide a list of the association's
8 appointments to the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force, as provided for
9 in R.S. 17:34.7, within thirty days of his receipt of the letter.

10 C. The staff of the Louisiana School Boards Association shall staff the
11 commission meetings.

12 D.(1) In order to serve as the public accountability and advisory body
13 that will oversee the development of content and performance standards and
14 curriculum, as well as the assessment for the Educational Excellence for
15 Louisiana initiative, the commission shall conduct regular meetings.

16 (2) The commissioners shall meet at least once every month, or upon the
17 written request of three members, or upon the written request of the chairman.

18 (3) The commission shall notice all future meetings at least seven days
19 prior to the meeting.

20 E. The Commission shall be subject to the provisions of law regarding
21 open meetings as provided for in R.S. 42:11 et seq. and public records, as
22 provided for in R.S. 44:1 et seq.

23 F. Prior to the adoption of any portion of the content and performance
24 standards for English language arts or mathematics for a particular grade level,
25 the commission shall do all of the following:

26 (1)(a) Conduct an initial meeting of the commission in order to receive
27 the proposed content and performance standards from the EEXL Standards
28 Specialists Task Force for one or more grade levels for English language arts
29 and mathematics.

1 **(b) Provide for an adequate amount of time at the initial meeting so that**
2 **the applicable members of the particular EEXL Specialists Task Force, who**
3 **developed the proposed content and performance standards for either English**
4 **language arts or mathematics, may explain and discuss the aspects of the**
5 **proposed content and performance standards.**

6 **(c) The next business day following the initial meeting, the Louisiana**
7 **School Boards Association shall post on its website a copy of the proposed**
8 **content and performance standards related to the applicable grade level or**
9 **levels for either English language arts or mathematics that were introduced**
10 **pursuant to Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.**

11 **(2)(a) Conduct a subsequent public comment meeting where teachers,**
12 **parents, and members of the public can offer public comment on the proposed**
13 **content and performance standards introduced at the initial meetings and**
14 **posted to the websites as provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.**

15 **(b) Following the public comment meeting provided for in Subparagraph**
16 **(a) of this Paragraph, the members of the applicable EEXL Standards**
17 **Specialists Task Force who developed the proposed content and performance**
18 **standards related to the particular grade level for English language arts or**
19 **mathematics shall incorporate any improvements offered at the public comment**
20 **meeting that a majority of the task force members determine would improve the**
21 **proposed content and performance standards.**

22 **(c) One week prior to the final meeting of the commission to adopt the**
23 **proposed content and performance standards related to the particular grade**
24 **level for English language arts or mathematics, the Louisiana School Boards**
25 **Association shall post the engrossed, proposed content and performance**
26 **standards on its website.**

27 **(3)(a) No sooner than one week following the posting of the engrossed,**
28 **proposed content and performance standards on the website as provided for in**
29 **Subparagraph (2)(c) of this Subsection, the commission shall conduct an**

1 **adoption meeting.**

2 **(b) The commission may adopt all or part of the engrossed, proposed**
3 **content performance standards, subject to legislative approval as provided in**
4 **R.S. 17:34.6.**

5 **G.(1) Following the adoption of the content and performance standards**
6 **for any grade level or levels related to English language arts or mathematics as**
7 **provided in Subsection H of this Section, the commission shall follow the same**
8 **procedure as provided for in Subsection H of this Section for the adoption of**
9 **curriculum, provided the relevant content and performance standards related**
10 **to the particular curriculum have been adopted.**

11 **(2) Following the adoption of the content and performance standards for**
12 **any grade level or group of grade levels, the commission shall oversee the**
13 **development of the EEXL assessments to assess student performance related to**
14 **the content and performance standards developed pursuant to this Subpart in**
15 **order to certify to the legislature that the assessments are aligned with the**
16 **content and performance standards developed pursuant to this Subpart.**

17 **H.(1) The commission shall submit all content and performance**
18 **standards and curriculum for kindergarten through grade five for English**
19 **language arts and mathematics to the legislature on or before March first of**
20 **2015.**

21 **(2) The commission shall submit all content and performance standards**
22 **and curriculum for grades six through grade twelve for English language arts**
23 **and mathematics to the legislature on or before March first of 2016.**

24 **I.(1) The commission shall submit to the legislature, no later than March**
25 **first of 2016, the certification to establish that the EEXL assessment developed**
26 **pursuant to Subsection (G)(2) of this Section for kindergarten through grade**
27 **five for English language arts and mathematics are aligned with the content and**
28 **performance standards developed pursuant to this Subpart.**

29 **(2) The commission shall submit to the legislature, no later than March**

1 first of 2017, the certification to establish that the EEXL assessments developed
2 pursuant to Subsection (G)(2) of this Section for grades six through grade
3 twelve in English language arts and mathematics are aligned with the content
4 and performance standards developed pursuant to this Subpart.

5 §34.5. EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force

6 A. There is hereby created the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force
7 on Mathematics and the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force on English
8 language arts, each of which shall be made up of the most qualified teaching
9 faculty members from higher education from across the state who are not
10 members of the commission.

11 B. The purpose of these task forces shall be to develop Louisiana's own
12 content and performance standards for English language arts and mathematics,
13 as provided for in this Subpart, for approval by the Commission pursuant to
14 R.S. 17:34.4.

15 C. The EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for Mathematics shall
16 consist of five members appointed by the commissioner of higher education as
17 follows:

18 (a) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics
19 at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.

20 (b) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics
21 education at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.

22 (c) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in engineering
23 at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.

24 (d) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics
25 at a Louisiana community college.

26 (e) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics
27 at a Louisiana technical college.

28 D. The EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for English language
29 arts shall consist of five members appointed by the Commissioner of Higher

1 Education as follows:

2 (a) Two persons who are members of the teaching faculty in English
3 Literature at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.

4 (b) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English
5 education at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.

6 (c) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English at a
7 Louisiana community college.

8 (d) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English at a
9 Louisiana technical college.

10 E.(1) The EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force members for a
11 particular subject shall complete the content and performance standards for
12 which they are assigned and shall present the completed documents to the
13 commission in the manner provided for R.S. 17:34.4(F).

14 (2) Should a dispute arise among the members of an EEXL Standards
15 Specialists Task Force assigned to a particular grade level as to the inclusion or
16 exclusion of any material in the content and performance standards or the
17 curriculum, the majority of the membership shall prevail.

18 F.(1) Each member of an EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force shall
19 be given adequate leave time by his employing institution of postsecondary
20 education to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the EEXL
21 Standards Specialists Task Force.

22 (2) The EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force members shall serve
23 without any additional compensation over and above their normal salary
24 provided by their respective institution of postsecondary education but shall be
25 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing
26 duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by
27 the division of administration.

28 §34.6. EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force

29 A. There is hereby created the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force

1 on Mathematics and the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force on English
2 language arts, each of which shall be made up of the best and brightest
3 educators, from across the state, who are not members of the commission.

4 B. The purpose of these task forces shall be to develop Louisiana's own
5 curriculum for kindergarten through grade twelve for mathematics and English
6 language arts, as provided for in this Subpart for approval by the commission
7 pursuant to R.S. 17:34.4, to be made available for use by any local school
8 governing authority in the state as provided in R.S. 17:34.10(D).

9 C. The EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force for Mathematics shall
10 consist of twenty-four members appointed by the Louisiana Association of
11 School Superintendents as follows:

12 (1) Three educators shall be chosen from the school governing
13 authorities that are geographically located in each of the eight districts that
14 make up the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

15 (2) Of the three educators chosen from each geographic district, as
16 provided in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph, two shall be mathematics
17 curriculum specialists and the third member shall be a classroom mathematics
18 teacher.

19 (3) The twenty-four educators shall develop the state content and
20 performance standards and curriculum for grades kindergarten through twelve
21 and shall be divided in such a manner that the most qualified two curriculum
22 specialists and one classroom teacher in mathematics for a particular grade
23 level are assigned to develop the mathematics curriculum for that particular
24 grade level.

25 D. The members of the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force for
26 English language arts shall be chosen in the same manner as the EEXL
27 Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for mathematics, as provided for
28 in Subsection C of this Section.

29 E.(1) The three EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for

1 a particular grade level in a particular subject shall complete the curriculum for
2 which they are assigned and shall present the completed documents to the
3 commission in the manner provided for R.S. 17:34.4(F).

4 (2) Should a dispute arise among the three task force members assigned
5 to a particular grade level, in either English language arts or mathematics, as
6 to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the content and performance
7 standards or the curriculum, the majority of the three shall prevail.

8 F.(1) Each member of an EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force
9 shall be given adequate leave time by his employing school governing authority
10 to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the task force.

11 (2) EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members shall serve
12 without any additional compensation over and above their normal teacher's
13 salary provided by their respective school governing authorities but shall be
14 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing
15 duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by
16 the division of administration.

17 §34.7. EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force

18 A. There is hereby created the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force
19 that shall be made up of the best and brightest educators, from across the state,
20 who have expertise in assessments and accountability who are not members of
21 the commission.

22 B. The purpose of the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force shall
23 be to oversee the development of Louisiana's own EEXL assessments to assess
24 student performance in kindergarten through grade twelve for English
25 language arts and mathematics for adoption by the commission as provided in
26 this Subpart, to be used by all local school governing authority in the state and
27 administered to every student in compliance with R.S. 17:24.4.

28 C. The EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force for English language
29 arts and Mathematics shall consist of nine members appointed by the Louisiana

1 School Boards Association as follows:

2 (1) One educator with expertise in assessments shall be chosen from the
3 school governing authorities that are geographically located in each of the eight
4 districts that make up the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

5 (2) One educator with expertise in assessments shall be chosen at large
6 from the state of Louisiana.

7 D.(1) The nine EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members shall
8 compile information in order to prepare assessments related to the content and
9 performance standards set by the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Forces and
10 shall present the completed information to the commission in the manner
11 provided for in R.S. 17:34.4(F).

12 (2) Should a dispute arise among the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task
13 Force members assigned to a particular grade level in either English language
14 arts or mathematics as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the
15 assessments related to the content and performance standards, the majority of
16 the members shall prevail.

17 E.(1) Each member of the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force
18 shall be given adequate leave time by his employing school governing authority
19 to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the task force.

20 (2) The EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members shall serve
21 without any additional compensation over and above their normal teacher's
22 salary provided by their respective school governing authorities, but shall be
23 reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing
24 duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by
25 the division of administration.

26 §34.8. Legislative approval

27 A. Prior to the implementation by public school governing authorities,
28 the content and performance standards, the curriculum, and the assessments
29 adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission pursuant to

1 **R.S. 17:34.4, shall be approved by the legislature in the following manner:**

2 **(1) The legislature shall receive from the commission the content and**
3 **performance standards and curriculum for grades kindergarten through grade**
4 **five for both English language arts and mathematics on or before March first**
5 **of 2015.**

6 **(2) The legislature shall receive from the commission the certification**
7 **that the EEXL assessments are aligned with the content and performance**
8 **standards for kindergarten through grade five for English language arts and**
9 **mathematics on or before March first of 2016.**

10 **(3) The legislature shall receive from the commission the content and**
11 **performance standards and curriculum for grades six through grade twelve for**
12 **English language arts and mathematics on or before March first of 2016.**

13 **(4) The legislature shall receive from the commission the certification**
14 **that the EEXL assessments are aligned with the content and performance**
15 **standards for grades six through grade twelve in English language arts and**
16 **mathematics on or before March first of 2017.**

17 **B.(1) The legislature may approve the adoption of the commission's**
18 **applicable content and performance standards.**

19 **(2) The legislature may approve the adoption of the commission's**
20 **applicable curriculum and assessments, provided the corresponding content and**
21 **performance standards have been approved.**

22 **(3) At such time as the legislature approves the commission's content**
23 **and performance standards and curriculum and assessments for a particular**
24 **grade level pursuant to this Subpart, the legislature shall immediately notify**
25 **public school governing authorities to begin implementing the applicable**
26 **content and performance standards at the beginning of the next school year**
27 **after legislative approval is granted and shall make the corresponding**
28 **curriculum available to public school governing authorities at that time.**

29 **(4) The legislature may return the content and performance standards**

1 and curriculum or assessments for a particular grade level for a particular
2 subject to the commission and include any recommendations for changes it
3 deems necessary or appropriate.

4 §34.9. Transition period

5 A. Each public school governing authority shall continue to utilize the
6 curriculum that it determines is appropriate to meet the standard in place for
7 the 2013-2014 school year until the Educational Excellence for Louisiana
8 Commission complies with the provisions of this Subpart and legislative
9 approval is granted as provided in R.S. 17:34.6.

10 B.(1) The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program examinations in
11 effect on the effective date of this Subpart shall be administered to each student
12 at the appropriate grade level until the assessment is updated to reflect the
13 changes to the content and performance standards adopted by the Educational
14 Excellence for Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature.

15 (2) Upon the adoption and approval by the legislature of the higher
16 content and performance standards created pursuant this Subpart, the EEXL
17 assessments shall be administered to students as provided in R.S. 17:24.4, but
18 shall be used for a period of not more than two years to develop baseline data
19 to ensure that a valid measure of achievement can occur and in order to provide
20 assistance to the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and the
21 EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force to develop the highest quality
22 curriculum in order to facilitate achievement related to the higher standards.

23 §34.10. Application; minimum standards, assessments, optional curriculum

24 A. The content and performance standards provided in R.S. 17:24.4 and
25 developed pursuant to this Subpart shall be the minimum standards for all
26 public school students and shall be applicable to all public school governing
27 authorities.

28 B. The EEXL assessments developed to assess student achievement
29 related to the content and performance standards developed pursuant to this

1 **Subpart shall be administered to all public school students in the manner**
2 **provided in R.S. 17:24.4 and R.S. 17:34.9(B).**

3 **C. Notwithstanding any provision of law or state regulation to the**
4 **contrary, the use of the curriculum provided for in this Subpart shall be**
5 **optional. Nothing in R.S. 17:24.4 or this Subpart is intended to mandate that**
6 **the curriculum be used by any public school governing authority.**

7 **D. The content and performance standards and the curriculum**
8 **developed pursuant to this Subpart shall be made available in an electronic and**
9 **printed form to all school governing authorities by the Louisiana Boards**
10 **Association and each individual school governing authority shall reimburse the**
11 **Louisiana School Boards Authority for such material.**

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST

Crowe (SB 669)

Proposed law provides for the creation of the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission, to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards, curriculum, and assessments for English language arts and mathematics.

Proposed law provides that, following adoption by the commission and approval of the legislature, every public school governing authority shall begin implementing the Educational Excellence for Louisiana content and performance standards and assessments and may use the corresponding curriculum.

Proposed law provides for legislative intent as following:

- (1) That parents and citizens of Louisiana desire rigorous content and performance standards and clear and consistent educational curriculums for Louisiana students that are superior to the rest of the nation, respect Louisiana values, and will prepare students for postsecondary education and career advancement.
- (2) That in 2010, the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a product of a multi-state consortium, were adopted in Louisiana for the subjects of English language arts and

- mathematics, with no statutory authority from the legislature and with no input from Louisiana classroom teachers or Louisiana parents.
- (3) That the multi-state consortium that developed the Common Core State Standards, simply provided a set of standards to be implemented with a companion testing mechanism, which has yet to be fully developed, and no curriculum. Because standards and tests necessarily dictate curriculum, the lack of curriculum resulted in a lack of implementation in parishes that did not have adequate resources or personnel and an often chaotic roll out in other parishes that were lacking in guidance for implementation. The lack of direction at the state-level regarding curriculum resulted in classroom teachers searching aimlessly for curriculum and materials and led to the use of books and materials that were often untested or violated the values of many Louisiana parents in the various school districts.
 - (4) That monies that the school districts have spent since 2010 for professional development, as well as investments made in computers and other technology related to Common Core, are transferable and will prove to be a benefit to the school districts as the districts transition toward a set of superior and properly vetted content and performance standards that will be supported by a well-reasoned and scholarly curriculum.
 - (5) That rigorous content and performance standards and high quality curriculum and assessments should be developed by the following:
 - (a) Persons who are accountable to the parents and citizens of the state of Louisiana.
 - (b) Professionals who are the best and brightest Louisiana educators, with oversight provided by the Legislature of Louisiana, by parents whose children are the consumers of the educational product, and by other stakeholders who are the beneficiaries of educational excellence.

Proposed law provides that the state of Louisiana shall retain sole control over the development, establishment, and revision of the content and performance standards, curriculum and assessments.

Proposed law provides that neither the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, nor the Department of Education, nor any state official may join a consortium or any other organization when participation in that consortium or organization would cede any measure of control over any aspect of Louisiana public elementary and secondary education to entities outside the state of Louisiana, nor may any such person or entity condition or delay a decision regarding content or performance standards, developed pursuant proposed law on the decision of any consortium, organization, or other state government.

Proposed law provides that, following adoption by the commission and approval of the legislature, every public school governing authority shall begin implementing the Educational Excellence for Louisiana content and performance standards and assessments and may use the corresponding curriculum.

Proposed law prohibits the state from mandating any that any assessment, or tests, to be given to a student in any school governing authority other than any of the following:

- (1) The Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) examinations.
- (2) The American College Testing examination or the ACT WorkKeys assessment.
- (3) The National Assessment of Educational Progress.

- (4) The EEXL Assessment adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission shall serve as the accountability and advisory body to oversee the development and adoption of the Educational Excellence for Louisiana that shall be the state content and performance standards and curriculum for English language arts and mathematics.

Proposed law provides for the following definitions:

- (1) "Assessments" mean the standards-based testing provided for in present law and also the testing developed pursuant to proposed law.
- (2) "Content and performance standards and curriculum" means standards of performance developed pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) "Commission" means the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission.
- (4) "Educational Excellence for Louisiana" or "EEXL" means the initiative to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards and assessments for English language arts and mathematics developed and established pursuant to proposed law for public elementary and secondary schools.
- (5) "EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force" means the group of persons appointed to develop assessments pursuant to proposed law. The assessments shall be presented to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to legislative approval by the legislature.
- (6) "EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force" means the group of persons appointed to develop curriculum pursuant to proposed law to present to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to legislative approval.
- (7) "EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force" means the group of persons appointed to develop content and performance standards pursuant to proposed law to present to the EEXL commission for adoption, subject to legislative approval.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall consist of 21 members, to be chosen from among Louisiana citizens, who have demonstrated excellence in education or outstanding business leadership or are parents who have demonstrated the stature and ability to act effectively for the best interests of students.

Proposed law provides that commissioners shall all be Louisiana citizens as shall be chosen as follows:

- (1) One person appointed by the governor, selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- (2) One person who is currently employed as a school superintendent, selected by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (3) One person who is currently employed as a school principal, selected by the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- (4) One person who is currently a member of a school board, selected by the Louisiana School Boards Association.
- (5) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and who has a minimum of five years experience in the classroom, selected by the Louisiana

- Federation of Teachers.
- (6) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and who has a minimum of five years experience in the class room, selected by the Louisiana Teachers Association.
 - (7) Two persons shall be selected by the Louisiana Parent-Teacher Association who meet all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a public school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government that makes educational policy or directs education activities pursuant to any provision of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.
 - (8) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Family Forum who meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government that makes educational policy or directs education activities.
 - (9) One person shall be selected by the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops who meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a Catholic school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government that makes educational policy or directs education activities.
 - (10) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English language arts or mathematics at a four-year Louisiana public postsecondary education institution, to be selected by the commissioner of higher education.
 - (11) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English language arts or mathematics at a Louisiana public postsecondary community or technical college, to be selected by the commissioner of higher education.
 - (12) One person shall be appointed by the Public Affairs Research Council.
 - (13) One person shall be appointed by the Council for A Better Louisiana.
 - (14) One person shall be appointed by the Louisiana Associated Chamber of Commerce Executives.
 - (15) One person appointed by the governor, selected from a list of three nominees submitted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses.
 - (16) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and who has a minimum of five-years experience in the classroom, appointed by the Association of Professional Educators.

- (17) One person who is currently employed as a classroom teacher and who has a minimum of five years, selected by the Louisiana Catholic School Boards Association.
- (18) Three persons shall be selected by the governor who meet all of the following criteria:
- (a) Is the parent of a child who attends a school and is enrolled in a grade level between kindergarten and grade twelve.
 - (b) Is not employed or serving in any capacity as an elected or appointed official in any school, any educational institution, or any unit of government that makes educational policy or directs education activities.

Proposed law provides that all vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Proposed law provides that each member of the commission shall serve without any additional compensation over and above his normal salary or compensation from his respective employer, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that members of the commission shall call for an organizational meeting no later than August 31, 2014, and shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman from among themselves to preside over the meetings of the commission.

Proposed law provides that a majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a majority for purposes of a quorum.

Proposed law provides that any official actions taken by the commission shall require a majority of those members present at the meeting of the commission, so long as a quorum is established.

Proposed law provides that at the organizational meeting, the commission shall notify the commissioner of higher education and request that he provide a list of his appointments to the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force within thirty days of his receipt of the letter.

Proposed law provides that at the organizational meeting the commission shall notify the president of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and request that he provide a list of the association's appointments to the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force within thirty days of his receipt of the letter.

Proposed law provides that at the organizational meeting, the commission shall notify the president of the Louisiana School Board Association and request that he provide a list of the association's appointments to the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force within thirty days of his receipt of the letter.

Proposed law provides that the staff of the Louisiana School Boards Association shall staff the commission meetings.

Proposed law provides that in order to serve as the public accountability and advisory body that will oversee the development of content and performance standards and curriculum as well as the assessment for the Educational Excellence for Louisiana initiative, the commission shall conduct regular meetings.

Proposed law provides that the commissioners shall meet at least once every month, or upon the written request of three members, or upon the written request of the chairman.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall notice all future meetings at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall be subject to the provisions of law regarding open meetings and public records.

Proposed law provides that prior to the adoption of any portion of the content and performance standards for English language arts or mathematics for a particular grade level, the commission shall do all of the following:

- (1) Conduct an initial meeting of the commission in order to receive the proposed content and performance standards from the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for one or more grade levels for English language arts or mathematics.
- (2) Provide for an adequate amount of time at the initial meeting so that the applicable members of the particular EEXL Specialists Task Force, who developed the proposed content and performance standards for either English language arts or mathematics, may explain and discuss the aspects of the proposed content and performance standards.
- (3) The next business day following initial meeting, the Louisiana School Boards Association shall post on its website a copy of the proposed content and performance standards related to the applicable grade level or levels for either English language arts or mathematics that were introduced at the initial meeting.
- (4) Conduct a subsequent public comment meeting where teachers, parents, and members of the public can offer public comment on the proposed content and performance standards introduced at the initial meetings and posted to the websites as provided for in proposed law.
- (5) Following the public comment meeting, the members of the applicable EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force who developed the proposed content and performance standards related to the particular grade level for English language arts or mathematics shall incorporate any improvements offered at the public comment meeting that a majority of the task force members determine would improve the proposed content and performance standards.
- (6) One week prior to the final meeting of the commission to adopt the proposed content and performance standards related to the particular grade level for English language arts or mathematics, the Louisiana School Boards Association shall post the engrossed, proposed content and performance standards on its website.
- (7) No sooner than one week following the posting of the engrossed, proposed content and performance standards on the Louisiana School Boards Association's website, the commission shall conduct an adoption meeting.
- (8) The commission may adopt all or part of the engrossed, proposed content performance standards, subject to legislative approval.

Proposed law provides that, following the adoption of the content and performance standards for any grade level or levels related to English language arts or mathematics, the commission shall follow the same procedure as provided for adoption of curriculum so long as the relevant content and performance standards related to the particular curriculum have been adopted.

Proposed law provides that following the adoption of the content and performance standards for any grade level or group of grade levels, the commission shall oversee the development of the EEXL assessments to assess student performance related to the content and

performance standards in order to certify to the legislature that the assessments are aligned with the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit all content and performance standards and curriculum for kindergarten through fifth grade for English language arts and mathematics to the legislature on or before March of 2015.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit all content and performance standards and curriculum for the sixth grade through the 12th grade for English language arts and mathematics to the legislature on or before March of 2016.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit to the legislature, no later than March of 2016, the certification to establish that the EEXL assessment developed pursuant to proposed law for kindergarten through fifth grade for English language arts and mathematics are aligned with the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall submit to the legislature, no later than March of 2017, the certification to establish that the EEXL assessments developed pursuant to proposed law for sixth grade through 12th grade in English language arts and mathematics are aligned with the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that for the creation of the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force on mathematics and EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force on English language arts, each of which shall be made up of the most qualified teaching faculty members from higher education from across the state who are not members of the commission.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of these task forces shall be to develop Louisiana's own content and performance standards for English language arts and mathematics for approval by the commission.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for Mathematics shall consist of five members appointed by the commissioner of higher education as follows:

- (1) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.
- (2) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics education at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.
- (3) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in engineering at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.
- (4) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics at a Louisiana community college.
- (5) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in mathematics at a Louisiana technical college.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force for English language arts shall consist of five members appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education as follows:

- (1) Two persons who are members of the teaching faculty in English literature at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.
- (2) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English education at a Louisiana four-year public postsecondary education institution.

- (3) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English at a Louisiana community college.
- (4) One person who is a member of the teaching faculty in English at a Louisiana technical college.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force members for a particular subject shall complete the content and performance standards for which they are assigned and shall present the completed documents to the commission.

Proposed law provides that, should a dispute arise among the members of an EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force assigned to a particular grade level as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the content and performance standards or the curriculum, the majority of the membership shall prevail.

Proposed law provides that each member of an EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force shall be given adequate leave time by his employing institution of postsecondary education to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of an EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Force members shall serve without any additional compensation over and above their normal salary provided by their respective institution of postsecondary education but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides for the creation of the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force on Mathematics and EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force on English language arts, each of which shall be made up of the best and brightest educators, from across the state, who are not members of the commission.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of these task forces shall be to develop Louisiana's own curriculum for kindergarten through 12th grade for mathematics and English language arts for approval by the commission to be made available for use by any local school governing authority in the state.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force for mathematics shall consist of 24 members appointed by the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents as follows:

- (1) Three educators shall be chosen from the school governing authorities that are geographically located in each of the eight districts that make up the State BESE Board.
- (2) Of the three educators chosen from each geographic district, two shall be mathematics curriculum specialists and the third member shall be a classroom mathematics teacher.
- (3) The 24 educators shall develop the state content and performance standards and curriculum for grades kindergarten through twelve and shall be divided in such a manner that the most qualified two curriculum specialists and one classroom teacher in mathematics for a particular grade level are assigned to develop the mathematics curriculum for that particular grade level.

Proposed law provides that the members of the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force for English language arts shall be chosen in the same manner as the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for mathematics.

Proposed law provides that the three EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members for a particular grade level in a particular subject shall complete the curriculum for which they are assigned and shall present the completed documents to the commission.

Proposed law provides that should a dispute arise among the three task force members assigned to a particular grade level, in either English language arts or mathematics, as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the content and performance standards or the curriculum, the majority of the three shall prevail.

Proposed law provides that each member of an EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force shall be given adequate leave time by his employing school governing authority to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the task force.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force members shall serve without any additional compensation over and above their normal teacher's salary provided by their respective school governing authorities but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that there is hereby created the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force that shall be made up of the best and brightest educators, from across the state, who have expertise in assessments and accountability who are not members of the commission.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force shall be to oversee the development of Louisiana's own EEXL assessments to assess student performance in kindergarten through grade 12 for English language arts and mathematics for adoption by the commission and to be used by all local school governing authority in the state and administered to every student in compliance.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force for English language arts and mathematics shall consist of nine members appointed by the Louisiana School Boards Association as follows:

- (1) One educator with expertise in assessments shall be chosen from the school governing authorities that are geographically located in each of the eight districts that make up the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- (2) One educator with expertise in assessments shall be chosen at large from the state of Louisiana.

Proposed law provides that the nine EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members shall compile information in order to prepare assessments related to the content and performance standards set by the EEXL Standards Specialists Task Forces and shall present the completed information to the commission.

Proposed law provides that should a dispute arise among the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members assigned to a particular grade level, in either English language arts or Mathematics as to the inclusion or exclusion of any material in the assessments related to the content and performance standards, the majority of the members shall prevail.

Proposed law provides that each member of the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force shall be given adequate leave time by his employing school governing authority to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a member of the task force.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL Assessment Specialists Task Force members shall serve without any additional compensation over and above their normal teacher's salary provided by their respective school governing authorities, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in attending meetings or performing duties authorized by the commission

at rates and standards as promulgated by the division of administration.

Proposed law provides that, prior to the implementation by public school governing authorities, the content and performance standards, the curriculum, and the assessments adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission must be approved by the legislature in the following manner:

- (1) The legislature shall receive, from the commission, the content and performance standards and curriculum for grades kindergarten through grade five for both English language arts and mathematics on or before March of 2015.
- (2) The legislature shall receive from the commission the certification that the EEXL assessments are aligned with the content and performance standards for kindergarten through grade five for English language arts and mathematics on or before March first of 2016.
- (3) The legislature shall receive from the commission the content and performance standards and curriculum for grades six through grade 12 for English language arts and mathematics on or before March of 2016.
- (4) The legislature shall receive from the commission the certification that the EEXL assessments are aligned with the content and performance standards for grades six through grade 12 in English language arts and mathematics on or before March of 2017.

Proposed law provides that the legislature may approve the adoption of the commission's applicable content and performance standards.

Proposed law provides that the legislature may approve the adoption of the commission's applicable curriculum and assessments, provided the corresponding content and performance standards have been approved.

Proposed law provides that, at such time as the legislature approves the commission's content and performance standards and curriculum and assessments for a particular grade level, the legislature shall notify public school governing authorities immediately to begin implementing the applicable content and performance standards at the beginning of the next school year after legislative approval is granted and shall make the corresponding curriculum available to the public school governing authorities at that time.

Proposed law provides that the legislature may return the content and performance standards and curriculum or assessments for a particular grade level for a particular subject to the commission and include any recommendations for changes it deems necessary or appropriate.

Proposed law provides for a transition period to transition between the current standards and the new EEXL standards.

Proposed law provides that public school governing authority shall continue to utilize the curriculum that it determines is appropriate to meet the standard in place for the 2013-2014 school year until the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and legislative approval.

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program examinations in effect on the effective dates of proposed law shall be administered to each student at the appropriate grade level until the assessment is updated to reflect the changes to the content and performance standards adopted by the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and approved by the legislature.

Proposed law provides that, upon the adoption and approval by the legislature of the higher content and performance standards created pursuant to proposed law, the EEXL assessments shall be administered to students but shall be used for a period of not more than two years to develop baseline data to ensure that a valid measure of achievement can occur and in order to provide assistance to the Educational Excellence for Louisiana Commission and the EEXL Curriculum Specialists Task Force to develop the highest quality curriculum in order to facilitate achievement related to the higher standards.

Proposed law provides that the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law provides that there shall be the minimum standards for all public school students and shall be applicable to all public school governing authorities.

Proposed law provides that the EEXL assessments developed to test student achievement related to the content and performance standards developed pursuant to proposed law shall be administered to all public school students.

Proposed law provides that, notwithstanding any provision of law or state regulation to the contrary, the use of the curriculum provided for in proposed law shall be optional. Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law is intended to mandate that the curriculum be used by any public school governing authority.

Proposed law provides that the content and performance standards and the curriculum developed pursuant to proposed law shall be made available in an electronic and printed form to all school governing authorities by the Louisiana Boards Association and each individual school governing authority shall reimburse the Louisiana School Boards Authority for such material.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4; adds R.S. 17:34.1 through 34.10)