

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 953

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEGER AND SMITH

STUDENT/STANDARDS: Provides for the collection, sharing, and use of student assessment results and information by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4) and (F)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:24.4(F)(2), relative
3 to statewide content standards and assessments for required subjects; to provide
4 relative to the definition and establishment of such standards; to provide for the
5 collection and sharing of student assessment results and information by the State
6 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide for the use of such results
7 and information for specified purposes including for purposes of distributing school
8 and district letter grades; to provide for the promulgation of rules by the State Board
9 of Elementary and Secondary Education relative to measuring student growth; to
10 require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish an
11 academic support plan and determine interventions for certain failing public schools;
12 and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4) and (F)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
15 17:24.4(F)(2) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

16 §24.4. Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for
17 required subjects; Louisiana Educational Assessment Program; parish or city
18 school board comprehensive pupil progression plans; waivers

19 A. As used in this Section, the following words, terms, and phrases shall
20 have the meaning ascribed to them in this Subsection, except when the context
21 clearly indicates a different meaning:

22 * * *

1 (4) "The statewide content standards for required subjects" are statements
2 that define what ~~a student~~ Louisiana public elementary and secondary students
3 should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a specific time period or grade
4 level or at the completion of a course. Content standards shall represent the
5 knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary
6 education and the workplace, as determined by content experts, elementary and
7 secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary education leaders, and
8 business and industry leaders.

9 * * *

10 F.(1)(a) The Department of Education shall ~~begin implementation of~~
11 implement a Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with the approval of the
12 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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

15 (c) Standards-based assessments in English language arts, mathematics,
16 science, and social studies based on state content standards and rigorous student
17 achievement standards set with reference to test scores of students of the same grade
18 level nationally shall be implemented by the State Board of Elementary and
19 Secondary Education. ~~Such tests~~ and shall be administered, at a minimum, in grades
20 three through eleven.

21 (d) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, standards-based assessments
22 implemented by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in English
23 language arts and mathematics shall be based on nationally recognized content
24 standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully
25 transition to postsecondary education and the workplace and shall allow for
26 comparison of student achievement with students in other states.

27 (e) Rigorous student achievement standards shall be set with reference to test
28 scores of the same grade levels nationally.

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

4 ~~(f)~~(g) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon initial
5 implementation of the tests provided for in this Subsection, shall establish by rule
6 adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act the adequate test score
7 to determine successful performance of the student on each test provided for by this
8 Subsection.

9 (2)(a) The state board shall collect statewide results from the assessments
10 administered to students in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years in order to
11 define the basis for student achievement expectations to be used in the school and
12 district accountability system pursuant to R.S. 17:10.1.

13 (b) The state board shall comply with federal and state law in reporting
14 student results from such assessments in 2015 and 2016. In 2016, the state board
15 shall provide aggregate results from such assessments to an appropriately qualified
16 faculty member at a Louisiana postsecondary education institution who shall analyze
17 student performance and advise the board on the basis for achievement expectations.

18 (c) For the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years:

19 (i) The state board shall use the statewide results from the assessments
20 administered in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 as the basis for a distribution of school
21 and district letter grades that shall not vary from the distribution of letter grades
22 resulting from the 2012-2013 assessment results unless schools or districts improve
23 in their performance such that the overall distribution of letter grades is better than
24 the 2012-2013 distribution.

25 (ii) After assigning letter grades, the state board shall establish an academic
26 support plan for each public school that concludes its third consecutive year of
27 academic failure and shall require a change in school governance only after such a
28 plan has been implemented in the school for at least one year.

1 (iii) The state board shall not use the results of such assessments to require
2 the use of value-added data in the evaluation of educators. The state board may
3 promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to ensure that
4 local public school systems have an accurate basis for measuring student growth in
5 the absence of such data.

6 (d) Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and continuing thereafter, the
7 state board shall use the results of the assessments implemented pursuant to
8 Subparagraph (1)(d) of this Subsection as the basis for student achievement
9 expectations in the school and district accountability system and in value-added
10 analysis.

11 (e) The state board shall use such assessments based on nationally
12 competitive standards to establish a statewide performance goal to be reached by
13 2025 and shall use such a goal as the basis for school and performance expectations.

14 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Leger HB No. 953

Abstract: Provides for the collection, sharing, and use of student assessment results and information by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education including for purposes of distributing letter grades to schools and school districts.

Present law provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the development and implementation of statewide content standards for required subjects and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) by the state Dept. of Education with approval of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Defines "statewide content standards for required subjects" as statements that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. Proposed law revises this definition to provide for what "La. public elementary and secondary students" rather than for what "a student" should know or be able to accomplish and otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires standards-based assessments for required subjects (English language arts, math, science, and social studies) to be implemented by BESE and administered in at least grades 3 through 11. Provides that such assessments be based on state content standards and rigorous student achievement standards comparable to national student achievement levels. Further requires that the rigor of such assessments shall at least compare to that of national achievement tests. Specifies that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the standards-based assessments in English language arts and math shall be based on

nationally recognized content standards. Requires BESE to establish the adequate test scores for determining successful student performance on the tests. Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires BESE to:

- (1) Collect statewide results from the assessments administered to students in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 in order to define the basis for student achievement expectations to be used in the school and district accountability system.
- (2) Comply with federal and state law in reporting student results from such assessments.
- (3) Provide aggregate results from such assessments to an appropriately qualified faculty member at a La. postsecondary education institution to analyze student performance and advise the board on the basis for achievement expectations.

Proposed law adds that for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, BESE:

- (1) Shall use the statewide results from the assessments administered in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 as the basis for a distribution of school and district letter grades that shall not vary from the distribution of letter grades resulting from the 2012-2013 assessment results unless schools or districts improve in their performance such that the overall distribution of letter grades is better than the 2012-2013 distribution.
- (2) After assigning letter grades, shall establish an academic support plan for each public school that concludes its third consecutive year of academic failure and shall require a change in school governance only after such a plan has been implemented in the school for at least one year.
- (3) Shall not use the results of such assessments to require the use of value-added data in the evaluation of educators. Authorizes the board to promulgate rules to ensure that local public school systems have an accurate basis for measuring student growth in the absence of such data.

Proposed law provides that beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and continuing thereafter, BESE shall use the results of the assessments as the basis for student achievement expectations in the school and district accountability system and in value-added analysis. Further provides that BESE shall use such assessments based on nationally competitive standards to establish a statewide performance goal to be reached by 2025 and shall use such a goal as the basis for school and performance expectations.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(A)(4) and (F)(1); Adds R.S. 17:24.4(F)(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Deletes proposed law that required that statewide content standards be established in accordance with La. educational priorities as determined by BESE and that prohibited the standards from requiring the use of federally or state-endorsed curricula, textbooks, or other instructional materials and from requiring the collection or reporting of any student data.
2. Adds requirements that BESE collect results from the assessments administered in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 in order to define the basis for student achievement expectations to be used in the school and district accountability system; comply with federal and state law in reporting student results from such assessments; and provide aggregate results from such assessments to a qualified faculty member

at a La. postsecondary education institution to analyze student performance and advise the board on the basis for achievement expectations.

3. Adds that for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, BESE shall use the statewide results from the assessments as the basis for a distribution of school and district letter grades that shall not vary from the distribution of letter grades from 2012-2013, unless under certain circumstances; shall establish an academic support plan for certain failing public schools; and shall require a change in school governance only after such a plan has been implemented for one year.
4. Prohibits BESE from using the results of such assessments to require the use of value-added data in the evaluation of educators.
5. Authorizes BESE to promulgate rules to ensure that local public school systems have an accurate basis for measuring student growth in the absence of value-added data.