
DIGEST

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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.