

Provides for parental access to instructional materials in public schools, requires including information about such access in parent orientation sessions, and removes requirements for parents to attend orientation sessions, as follows:

New law provides that a parent of a child attending a public elementary or secondary school is entitled to:

- (1) Review instructional materials used by or administered to the parent's child.
- (2) Review any survey before it is administered or distributed by a school to a student.

New law requires each local school board to adopt rules and policies for each school to make instructional materials available for review as provided in new law. Specifies that such rules must require providing access to instructional materials to a parent upon request and may specify reasonable hours for review. Requires that a paper copy of material that can be readily copied using school equipment be provided upon a parent's request. Requires that the rules establish reasonable fees for copies. Provides that no law or school board policy shall prohibit or interfere with a parent's ability to make his own copies on school premises via mobile or other device. Requires the principal to ensure compliance with rules.

New law includes these definitions:

- (1) "Instructional materials" - content that conveys the knowledge or skills of a subject in the school curriculum through a medium or media combination for conveying information to a student. Also includes any nonsecure test, nonsecure assessment, or survey administered to a student, and books, supplementary materials, teaching aids, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, online material, information, or services, or an electronic medium or other means of conveying information to the student or contributing to the learning process.
- (2) "Parent" - the parent or legal guardian of a child.
- (3) "Survey" - any evaluative instrument or questionnaire that is not an assessment of academic knowledge, skills, or abilities, administered as part of a state, national, or international assessment or by itself.

Existing law requires local school boards to conduct a parent orientation course that includes (in part) a parent orientation meeting at which the school board or its representative must provide each parent a copy of and explain specified school board policies.

New law includes parental access to instructional materials in accordance with new law in school board policies to be covered in the parent orientation meeting.

New law repeals prior law that required a child first entering public school in the state to present evidence that a parent had completed the required orientation course, with completion of one course being sufficient to enroll all the parent or guardian's children. Prior law prohibited denial of school entry by reason of a parent's noncompliance.

Prior law required local school boards to notify parents whose children might enter school of the requirements to attend parent orientation. New law instead requires that local school boards notify parents of the availability and schedule of orientation meetings.

New law requires that BESE and each local school board provide for implementation of new law on Aug. 1, 2014, and adopt rules and policies required by new law prior to Aug. 1, 2014.

Effective Aug. 1, 2014, except provisions for rulemaking and implementation by local school boards and BESE and provisions abolishing requirements for parents to attend orientation meetings are effective upon signature of governor (June 4, 2014).

(Amends R.S. 17:235.1(B)(intro. para.) and (4)(e) and (D); Adds R.S. 17:235.1(B)(4)(f) and 355; Repeals R.S. 17:235.1(A), (C), and (F))

