2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 550

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Provides relative to student eligibility requirements for participation in the voucher program

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4013(2)(a), relative to the Student Scholarships for

3   Educational Excellence Program; to provide with respect to eligibility of students

4   entering kindergarten in the voucher program; and to provide for related matters.

5   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6   Section 1. R.S. 17:4013(2)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7   §4013. Definitions

8   As used in this Chapter, unless otherwise clearly indicated, the following

9   terms mean:

10   *   *   *

11   (2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in Louisiana, is a member

12   of a family with a total income that does not exceed two hundred fifty percent of the

13   current federal poverty guidelines as established by the federal office of management

14   and budget, and who meets any one of the following criteria:

15   (a) Is entering kindergarten and any of the following applies to the student:

16   (i) Is in a public school system that assigns students to schools based upon

17   attendance zones and has enrolled in the local school system in which the public

18   school he would have otherwise attended is located received a letter grade of "D" or

19   "F" or any variation thereof for the most recent year pursuant to the school and

20   district accountability system. or in a school under the jurisdiction of the Recovery

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1   ~~School District. Each local school system or the Recovery School District shall~~

2   ~~conduct its annual kindergarten enrollment process and shall report such enrollment~~

3   ~~to the department prior to the program enrollment process.~~

4   (ii) Is the sibling of a scholarship recipient.

5   (iii) Was enrolled in the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development

6   program at the school in which he is entering kindergarten.

7   *   *   *

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)]

HB 550 Original   2016 Regular Session   Jefferson

Abstract: Limits kindergarten student eligibility for the voucher program to kindergarten
        students who would have attended a "D" or "F" school, are siblings of voucher
        recipients, or received a voucher for the nonpublic pre-k voucher program.

Present law establishes a voucher program known as the Student Scholarships for
Educational Excellence Program.

Present law provides that to be eligible for a voucher a student shall reside in La., be a
member of a family with a total income that does not exceed 250% of the current federal
poverty guidelines, and shall meet any one of several criteria.

Present law provides that an entering kindergarten student is eligible for the voucher
program if he has enrolled in the local school system in which the public school he would
have otherwise attended is located or in a school under the jurisdiction of the Recovery
School District.

Proposed law provides that an entering kindergarten student who meets any of the following
criteria is eligible for a voucher:

(1)   Is in a public school system that assigns students to schools based on attendance
        zones and the public school he would have attended received a letter grade of "D"
        or "F".

(2)   Is the sibling of a scholarship recipient.

(3)   Was enrolled in the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development program at the
        school in which he is entering kindergarten.

Present law provides that each local school system or the Recovery School District shall
conduct its annual kindergarten enrollment process and shall report such enrollment to the
department prior to the program enrollment process. Proposed law removes present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:4013(2)(a))