

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 306

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS AND SENATOR LAFLEUR

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to foreign language immersion programs in public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(c) and to enact R.S. 17:10.1(G)(4), 273.2(D), and  
3 273.3(H), relative to foreign language immersion programs in public schools; to  
4 provide that such programs can be any type of dual language immersion program;  
5 to require local public school boards to notify parents or legal guardians of certain  
6 determinations with regard to requests to establish a program; and to provide for  
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(c) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
10 17:10.1(G)(4), 273.2(D), and 273.3(H) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state  
12 board

13 \* \* \*

14 G.

15 \* \* \*

16 (4) For purposes of this Subsection, "foreign language immersion program"  
17 means any type of dual language immersion program.

18 \* \* \*

19 §273.2. Foreign language immersion programs; certification process; criteria

20 \* \* \*

1           D. For purposes of this Section, "foreign language immersion program"  
2           means any type of dual language immersion program.

3           §273.3. Foreign language immersion programs; creation by local school boards;  
4           parent petition

5                                   \*       \*       \*

6           C.

7                                   \*       \*       \*

8           (2)

9                                   \*       \*       \*

10           (c)(i) The local school board shall ensure that any foreign language  
11           immersion program established pursuant to this Section is designated as a Certified  
12           Foreign Language Immersion Program by the State Board of Elementary and  
13           Secondary Education in accordance with R.S. 17:273.2 within three years from the  
14           date such program is established.

15           (ii) The local school board shall review the written requests submitted  
16           pursuant to this Paragraph and shall notify the parents or legal guardians not later  
17           than March fifteenth of its determination as to whether or not the required number  
18           of requests was submitted.

19                                   \*       \*       \*

20           H. For purposes of this Section, "foreign language immersion program"  
21           means any type of dual language immersion program.

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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)]

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HB 306 Engrossed                                   2018 Regular Session                                   Thomas

**Abstract:** Provides that foreign language immersion programs offered in public schools shall mean any type of dual language immersion program. Requires local public school boards to notify parents as to whether or not the required number of written requests was submitted to establish a program.

Present law authorizes a local public school board to establish a foreign language immersion program in any school. Requires a school board to establish a foreign language immersion

program if requested in writing by the parents of at least 25 students seeking enrollment in kindergarten or 25 students seeking enrollment in first grade by March 1st prior to the school year in which the program is to be established and if other specified criteria are met. Prohibits school boards from denying enrollment in a foreign language immersion program to any student under specified circumstances.

Present law requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to designate a foreign language immersion program that meets specified criteria as a certified program and to promulgate rules to implement such certification process. Requires a school board to ensure that any program established is designated as a certified program in accordance with present law within three years of being established.

Present law requires BESE to include a component in the school and district accountability system for a school that establishes, maintains, or expands a foreign language immersion program or proceeds to earn or maintain certification of a foreign language immersion program. Requires BESE to promulgate rules to implement present law.

Proposed law clarifies that for purposes of present law, "foreign language immersion program" means any type of dual language immersion program. Adds a requirement that school boards notify parents by March 15 as to whether or not the required number of written requests was submitted to establish a program. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.3(C)(2)(c); Adds R.S. 17:10.1(G)(4), 273.2(D), and 273.3(H))