

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 688 (HB 656)

2018 Regular Session

Emerson

Existing law requires testing the literacy level of second and third graders in public schools not later than 30 days after the beginning of the school year. Prior law required teachers to perform such testing to determine which students could not read at grade level. New law removes the requirement that teachers perform the test and requires identification of students who read below, at, or above grade level.

New law requires that students scoring above grade level be considered for evaluation into a gifted program and students scoring below grade level be considered for additional resources.

Existing law requires reporting on the results of the literacy tests to the principal and the system superintendent. New law requires submission of such reports within 45 days of the beginning of the school year. Further requires such reports to include the number of children referred for gifted evaluation. Existing law requires the system superintendent to forward such information to the state superintendent and to the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) not later than 60 days after the beginning of each school year. Requires BESE, not later than 90 days after the beginning of each school year, to compile and submit, to the House and Senate education committees, a report showing for each school, each school system, and the state as a whole the number of students in second or third grade who cannot read at grade level.

New law authorizes the state Dept. of Education, in times of crisis or natural disaster, to extend deadlines for testing and reporting results.

New law provides that existing law and new law provisions relative to literacy testing are applicable to charter schools.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 17:182(B); Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(45))