

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 47

BY SENATOR FIELDS

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Requires public schools to work to develop a mixed provider delivery model of prekindergarten instruction. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:24.8(A) and to enact R.S. 17:24.8(D), relative to  
3 prekindergarten instruction; to require each city, parish, and other public school board  
4 to work to implement a mixed provider delivery model for full-day prekindergarten  
5 instruction; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:24.8(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:24.8(D) is  
8 hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §24.8. Prekindergarten programs

10 A. Each city, parish, or other local public school board may develop and offer  
11 prekindergarten instruction. The youngest age at which a child may enter  
12 prekindergarten provided for by this Subsection shall be ~~two years younger than the~~  
13 ~~age required for that child to enter first grade as provided by R.S. 17:222(A)~~ **four**  
14 **years old by September thirtieth of the year in which the child enrolls in**  
15 **prekindergarten.**

16 \* \* \*

17 **D.(1) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each city, parish, or other**  
18 **local public school board shall work to develop a mixed provider delivery model**

1 for full-day, year-round, high-quality prekindergarten instruction to each child  
2 residing within the boundaries of the school district who is eligible for a  
3 prekindergarten program pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

4 (2) As used in this Paragraph, the following words shall have the following  
5 meanings:

6 (a) "Full-day" means at least eight hours;

7 (b) "Mixed provider delivery model" means a program between the  
8 school board and or both of the following:

9 (i) Quality-rated child care providers, as defined by the State Board of  
10 Elementary and Secondary Education, operating and overseeing programs on  
11 school property, pursuant to an agreement with a city, parish, or other local  
12 public school board.

13 (ii) Quality-rated child care providers, as defined by the State Board of  
14 Elementary and Secondary Education, operating and overseeing private child  
15 care within the boundaries of the school district with at least one infant and one  
16 toddler classroom and offering prekindergarten seats in their private program,  
17 pursuant to an agreement with a city, parish, or other local public school board.

18 (c) "Year-round" means for a full calendar year, excluding weekends and  
19 holidays, or approximately two hundred sixty days a year.

20 (3) The city, parish, or other local public school board shall ensure that  
21 the implementation of a mixed provider delivery model for prekindergarten  
22 instruction as described in this Subsection does not disrupt the stability of infant  
23 and toddler child care in their community and that the new seats created through  
24 the mixed provider delivery model are distributed equitably among quality-rated  
25 child care providers.

26 (4) The city, parish, or other local school board shall work to ensure that:

27 (a) The parent of each child provided a seat through the mixed provider  
28 delivery model is allowed to choose the setting in which their child is enrolled,  
29 subject to the availability of seats in a particular setting.

30 (b) The costs charged for a seat in the mixed provider delivery model are

1           offered:

2                   (i) At no costs to an eligible child who is economically disadvantaged, as  
3           defined in rule by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

4                   (ii) On a sliding scale, that is set in the agreement between the provider  
5           and the school district, to an eligible child who is not economically  
6           disadvantaged. The copayment required of a parent, guardian, or caretaker shall  
7           not exceed the difference between the rate paid by the school district and the cost  
8           necessary for the eligible provider to offer the prekindergarten programming to  
9           each child.

10                  (iii) In addition to the costs for a seat, each student may be charged  
11           additional fees for meals or before- and after-care.

12                  (5) The city, parish, or other local school board shall work with  
13           community networks or other designated local networks to engage in outreach  
14           to the parents and legal guardians of each eligible child to make them aware of  
15           any available seats in their community with priority focus on areas of high  
16           numbers of individuals qualifying for the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

17                  (6) Beginning in 2023-2024, each city, parish, or other local public school  
18           board shall annually provide a report to the state Department of Education on:

19                   (a) The number of three- and four-year-old children served through each  
20           prekindergarten program and early childhood program offered through the  
21           school board, including the seats provided through the mixed provider delivery  
22           model, in the same manner that they report enrollment numbers for students in  
23           kindergarten.

24                   (b) The distribution of seats among each school and quality rated child  
25           care provider.

26                   (c) Input from at least the majority of providers in the community  
27           network, including how the distribution of seats has impacted the stability of  
28           infant and toddler care.

29                  (7) Beginning in 2024-2025, the state Department of Education shall  
30           annually provide a report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on:

1                    **(a) The number of children served in prekindergarten programs, in total,**  
 2                    **by type, and by provider.**

3                    **(b) The approximate number of three- and four-year-old children in the**  
 4                    **state and by school system who are not being served by a prekindergarten**  
 5                    **program or early childhood program.**

6                    **(c) Any recommendations for increasing seats and improving the**  
 7                    **provision of prekindergarten instruction and early childhood care.**

8                    Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 9                    signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 10                    by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 11                    vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 12                    effective on the day following such approval.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of  
 the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

---

DIGEST

SB 47 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Fields

Present law allows each city, parish, and other local public school board to offer prekindergarten instruction and provides for the age at which a child may enter prekindergarten.

Proposed law retains present law and clarifies the age at which a child may enter prekindergarten.

Proposed law requires each city, parish, and other local public school board to work to develop a mixed provider delivery model for full-day, full-year, high-quality prekindergarten instruction.

Proposed law provides definitions for the mixed provider delivery model, requires the school boards to ensure certain items are provided for in any mixed provider delivery model established, and requires annual reporting to the state Department of Education (LDOE) on any seats provided for prekindergarten instruction through the mixed provider delivery model and the impact the model has on the local childcare delivery system.

Proposed law requires an annual report from LDOE to the Senate and House Education Committees.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.8(A); adds R.S. 17:24.8(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Clarifies the age a child may enter prekindergarten instruction in public schools.
2. Removes the requirement that all public schools offer prekindergarten instruction.
3. Requires each public school board to work to develop a mixed provider delivery model for prekindergarten instruction.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Clarifies language relative to actions to be taken by the school boards and data to be reported.
2. Makes technical corrections.