

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 163

BY SENATOR HEWITT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TEACHERS. Requires numeracy professional development for certain teachers. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:24.13 and 3996(B)(75), relative to numeracy skills professional development; to require numeracy skills training for certain teachers; to provide reporting on the training; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:24.13 and 3996(B)(75) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§24.13. Numeracy professional development; purpose; requirements; reporting; funding

A. As used in this Section:

(1) "Approved professional development course" means a numeracy skills instruction course to be presented during the educator's work day, but not during the statutorily guaranteed planning period, designed for the professional development of educators that includes information on instructing students regarding the vertical alignment of mathematical concepts and the blending of concepts, procedures, strategies, problem-solving, and disposition.

(2) "Teacher" means each fourth through eighth grade public school teacher who teaches mathematics.

1 **B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the state**
2 **Department of Education shall:**

3 **(1) Not later than March 1, 2024, develop a list of approved professional**
4 **development courses.**

5 **(2) Not later than August 1, 2025, require each teacher to successfully**
6 **complete at least one approved professional development course and provide**
7 **documentation to the teacher's employing school. A teacher who provides**
8 **documentation that the teacher successfully completed an approved**
9 **professional development course within five years prior to August 1, 2025, shall**
10 **be considered in compliance with the provisions of this Paragraph. Courses**
11 **completed more than five years prior to August 1, 2025, shall not be used to**
12 **fulfill the requirements of this Paragraph.**

13 **(3) Require any teacher hired after July 31, 2025, to provide**
14 **documentation to the employing school of successful completion of an approved**
15 **professional development course within two years of the date of employment.**

16 **(4)(a) On May 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, require each city, parish,**
17 **or other local public school board to report to the department the number and**
18 **percentage of teachers who have successfully completed an approved**
19 **professional development course.**

20 **(b) The data required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be**
21 **included in the department's school progress profiles required by R.S. 17:3911**
22 **and 3912.**

23 **C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt**
24 **rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the**
25 **provisions of this Section.**

26 **D. The effectiveness of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to**
27 **the designation and allocation of funds by the state Department of Education;**
28 **however, no state funds or obligated federal funds shall be used to implement**
29 **the provisions of this Section.**

1 **E. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to extend the hours in the**
 2 **teacher's work day nor the hours to be worked in a year.**

3 * * *

4 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

5 * * *

6 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
 7 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
 8 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
 9 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
 10 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
 11 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
 12 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

13 * * *

14 **(75) Numeracy professional development, R.S. 17:24.13.**

15 * * *

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

The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by LG Sullivan.

DIGEST

SB 163 Engrossed 2023 Regular Session Hewitt

Proposed law requires each public school teacher who teaches fourth through eighth grade mathematics to successfully complete a foundational numeracy skills professional development course that is approved by the state Department of Education (LDOE). Specify that the required numeracy skills training shall be presented during the educator's work day, but not during the statutorily guaranteed planning period.

Proposed law requires, not later than March 1, 2024, the LDOE to develop a list of approved professional development courses.

Proposed law requires, by August 1, 2025, each teacher to successfully complete at least one

of the approved professional development courses and provide documentation of the successful completion to the employing school. Further provides that teachers who provide documentation of completion of an approved program within five years prior to August 1, 2025, will be considered in compliance.

Proposed law requires each newly hired teacher to document successful completion of an approved program to the employing school within two years of the date of employment.

Proposed law requires, beginning May 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, that each city, parish, or other local school board report to LDOE the number and percentage of teachers who have successfully completed an approved course. Further requires the data to be reported on LDOE's school progress profiles.

Proposed law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of proposed law.

Present law provides for public charter schools and provides for requirements for those schools.

Proposed law requires public charter schools to comply with provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the effectiveness of the provisions of proposed law is subject to the designation and allocation of funds by the LDOE and that no state or obligated federal funds shall be used to implement proposed law.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to extend the hours in the teacher's work day nor the hours to be worked in a year.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:24.13 and 3996(B)(75))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Specify that the required numeracy skills training shall be presented during the educator's work day, but not during the statutorily guaranteed planning period.
2. Provide that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to extend the hours in the teacher's work day nor the hours to be worked in a year.