

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 244

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUGHES, CARLSON, CARVER, FREIBERG, SCHLEGEL,
TAYLOR, AND YOUNG

STUDENTS: Expands the purpose of the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include educational services in math

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Part III of Chapter 43 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:4032.1, relative to academic assistance for certain
4 public school students; to provide for student and service provider eligibility,
5 program administration, payment amounts and uses, notifications, reports, and
6 funding; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part III of Chapter 43 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
9 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:4032.1, is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 PART III. STEVE CARTER ~~LITERACY~~ EDUCATION PROGRAM

11 §4032.1. Steve Carter ~~Literacy~~ Education Program; establishment; student
12 eligibility; service provider eligibility and approval; administration; payment
13 amounts and uses; notifications; reports; funding

14 A. The Steve Carter ~~Literacy~~ Education Program, referred to in this Part as
15 the "program", is hereby established for the purpose of providing funds for
16 supplemental educational services for eligible students.

17 B. A public school student who falls into one of the following categories is
18 eligible to participate in the program:

19 (1) He is in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and is determined
20 to read below grade level or be at risk for reading or mathematics difficulties

1 according to the results of a literacy ~~assessment~~ or mathematics assessment approved
2 by the state Department of Education.

3 (2) He is in the fourth ~~or fifth~~ through twelfth grade and scored below
4 mastery in English language arts or mathematics on the state assessment
5 administered the prior school year.

6 (3) His eligibility cannot be determined according to the measures provided
7 in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Subsection due to the lack of a department-approved
8 literacy or mathematics assessment or state assessment results but he is
9 recommended by his English language arts or mathematics teacher for participation
10 in the program due to the student's ~~reading~~ academic difficulties.

11 C. The state Department of Education shall administer and provide for the
12 implementation of the program pursuant to rules and regulations developed and
13 adopted for such purpose by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
14 in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

15 D. In administering the program, the department shall:

16 (1) Evaluate ~~student's~~ students' eligibility for the program.

17 (2) Develop an application process for students and providers and accept
18 applications.

19 (3) Evaluate and publish a list of approved providers of supplemental
20 educational services including but not limited to those with expertise in early literacy
21 or mathematics to determine their initial and continued eligibility for program
22 payments. ~~The department shall establish~~

23 (4) Establish minimum criteria by which approved providers shall be
24 evaluated to ensure program effectiveness in improving students' reading and
25 mathematics abilities, including but not limited to performance on ~~approved~~
26 department-approved literacy and mathematics assessments and the Louisiana
27 Educational Assessment Program state assessment and the results of a parental
28 satisfaction survey. Providers that fail to demonstrate improvement in students'

1 reading or mathematics abilities for two consecutive years shall be deemed ineligible
2 to participate in the program.

3 ~~(4)~~ (5) Remit payments to such providers for services rendered to students
4 in the program with the lowest-performing economically disadvantaged students
5 given the highest priority.

6 ~~(5)~~ (6) Notify the governing authority of each public school of the
7 application process, requirements, and deadlines for parents and legal guardians.

8 E. By not later than September thirtieth of each year, or as soon as
9 practicable if a student's reading or mathematics deficiency is identified after this
10 date, each public school governing authority shall notify the parent or legal guardian
11 of each student who is eligible to participate in the program of the process for
12 applying for the program and other information provided by the department pursuant
13 to Paragraph (D)(5) of this Section.

14 F.(1) The department shall remit payment for services provided, up to a
15 maximum of one thousand five hundred dollars per student per school year. A
16 participating student may receive tutoring services in both reading and mathematics,
17 but the total for all services shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars.

18 Program money may be used for any of the following eligible purposes that are
19 designed to improve ~~reading or literacy~~ reading, literacy, or mathematics skills:

20 (a) Books for home use; chosen from a list developed by the department,
21 including electronic or digital books and subscriptions to online book clubs;
22 however, such costs shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars per school year.

23 (b) Instructional materials and curriculum, including but not limited to online
24 materials, that have been reviewed in accordance with R.S. 17:351.1 and have been
25 determined to fully align with state academic content standards.

26 (c)(i) Tutoring services provided by a person who is trained in the state
27 standards for English language arts or mathematics and who ~~holds a valid teaching~~
28 ~~certificate in either elementary education or reading or holds a baccalaureate or~~

1 ~~graduate degree in education, English, or another subject area indicative of expertise~~
2 ~~in reading and literacy.~~ meets one of the following criteria:

3 (aa) He holds a valid teaching certificate in elementary education, reading,
4 or mathematics or holds an associate or baccalaureate degree.

5 (bb) He is employed as a paraprofessional by a public school governing
6 authority.

7 (cc) He is a student pursuing a degree at a postsecondary education
8 institution.

9 (ii) In addition to the requirements provided in Item (i) of this Subparagraph,
10 a person providing tutoring services in reading shall have successfully completed a
11 department-approved science of reading training.

12 (d) Summer education programs.

13 (e) After-school education programs.

14 (2) The department shall remit payments to approved providers on behalf of
15 eligible students.

16 (3) Any expenses above the limit established in Paragraph (1) of this
17 Subsection shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian.

18 (4) The department shall develop a procedure for verification that students
19 in the program received the services for which payments were made.

20 G. The department shall submit a report to the House Committee on
21 Education and the Senate Committee on Education by not later than April thirtieth
22 of each year regarding the implementation of the program. The report shall include,
23 at a minimum, the following information for that year:

24 (1) The total number of students on whose behalf payments were remitted.

25 (2) The public schools in which such students are enrolled and the number
26 of students on whose behalf payments were remitted in each school.

27 (3) The total dollar amount of payments remitted to approved providers.

28 (4) A list of the approved providers to which payments were remitted and the
29 supplemental educational services provided to each student.

1 (5) ~~A report~~ Information relative to the performance of each provider and
 2 overall program performance with respect to improving participants' reading ~~abilities~~
 3 and mathematics abilities as provided in Paragraph (D)(3) of this Section.

4 H. Implementation of the program is subject to the appropriation of funds or
 5 the availability of any local funds for the purposes of this Part. The department may
 6 use any federal or state funds appropriated for the purpose of increasing early
 7 ~~literacy~~ literacy, improving students' mathematics abilities, or supporting academic
 8 achievement among ~~elementary~~ public school students to make program payments.

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 244 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Hughes

Abstract: Expands the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include mathematics and certain public school students in all grades.

Present law provides for a literacy program for certain public school students in grades K-5. Proposed law expands the purpose of program to include mathematics and changes name from the Steve Carter Literacy Program to the Steve Carter Education Program.

Present law provides that a public school student who is in one of the following categories is eligible for the program:

- (1) Enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and reads below grade level or is at risk for reading difficulties according to a literacy assessment.
- (2) Enrolled in the fourth or fifth grade and scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (3) Enrolled in kindergarten through the fifth grade, lacks a literacy or English language arts assessment result, and is recommended for the program by an English teacher.

Proposed law expands eligible students to also include:

- (1) Enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade and is at risk for mathematics difficulties according to a mathematics assessment.
- (2) Enrolled in the fourth through 12th grade and scored below mastery in mathematics on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (3) Enrolled in the sixth through 12th grade and scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year.
- (4) Enrolled in kindergarten through the fifth grade, lacks a mathematics assessment result, and is recommended for the program by a mathematics teacher.

Present law gives priority to the lowest-performing, economically disadvantaged students for participation in the program. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for payments of up to \$1,000 per student per school year for eligible services intended to improve reading or literacy skills. Proposed law increases maximum payment from \$1,000 to \$1,500 and expands eligible services to also include those intended to improve mathematics skills.

Present law requires the Dept. of Education to administer the program pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires public school governing authorities to notify the parents or legal guardians of eligible students of the program and the application process. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that implementation of the program is subject to the appropriation of funds or the availability of local funds. Proposed law retains present law. Present law authorizes the department to use funds appropriated for the purpose of increasing early literacy or supporting academic achievement among elementary school students. Proposed law further authorizes the department to use funds for improving students' mathematics abilities.

(Amends R.S. 17:4032.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Expand the pool of people eligible to provide tutoring services to also include students pursuing a degree at a postsecondary education institution, those who hold any associate or baccalaureate degree, paraprofessionals employed by a public school governing authority, and certified math teachers.
2. Require people providing tutoring services in reading to have successfully completed a DOE-approved science of reading training.
3. Specify that a participating student may receive tutoring services in both reading and math, but the total for all services may not exceed \$1,500.
4. Add results of a parental satisfaction survey to measures DOE is required to use for evaluating effectiveness of providers of supplemental educational services.