



employees who have been convicted of a crime listed in R.S. 15:587.1 or who have been placed on the Dept. of Children and Family Services' state central registry.

### **Early Learning Centers**

Present law defines "early learning center" as any child day care center, Early Head Start Center, Head Start Center, or stand-alone prekindergarten program not attached to a school.

Proposed law removes the exemption for nonpublic prekindergarten programs that are attached to a school and requires all nonpublic prekindergarten programs to be licensed by the Dept. of Education.

Proposed law establishes child safety and welfare minimum standards and requires all public, nonpublic, and charter school prekindergarten programs to comply with the minimum standards.

Present law provides for penalties for early learning center violations regarding supervision, criminal history record checks, the state central registry disclosure form, staff-to-child ratios, motor vehicle checks, and failure to report critical incidents.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Education to publish those violations on its website.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting and Investigations**

Present law requires teaching or child care providers to complete an annual online mandatory reporter training course and send a record of completion to the school or early learning center at which the teaching or child care provider is employed.

Proposed law requires all schools and early learning centers to annually report all employees that have and have not completed mandatory reporter training to the Dept. of Education and requires the department to post each entity's completion rates, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Proposed law adds certain Dept. of Children and Family Services and office of juvenile justice employees to the list of mandatory reporters.

Proposed law amends the definitions of "caretaker", "mandatory reporter", "teaching or child care provider" and "neglect" in the Children's Code.

Proposed law provides for agency responsibility for responding to reports of child abuse and neglect.

Proposed law provides for agency responsibility for cases in which the perpetrator is a child. Provides that the Dept. of Children and Family Services is responsible for cases where the perpetrator child lives with the victim child and law enforcement is responsible for all other cases involving a child perpetrator.

Proposed law establishes requirements for reporting cases between the Dept. of Children and Family

Services and law enforcement.

Proposed law establishes requirements for law enforcement to respond to reports of child sexual abuse in a school setting and to refer certain cases to the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

### **Dept. of Children and Family Services Determinations**

Present law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services to make a determination following an investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect of whether the report was justified, inconclusive, not justified, or false.

Proposed law changes the determination language from "justified" or "unjustified" to "substantiated" or "unsubstantiated".

Present law uses the terms "valid" and "invalid" when referring to justified and unjustified determinations of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Proposed law changes the terms "valid" and "invalid" to "substantiated" and "unsubstantiated".

### **Liability for Sexual Abuse in a School Setting**

Proposed law provides that a parent of guardian of a child who is the victim of sexual abuse in a school setting may be awarded damages including medical and behavioral health expenses and reimbursement of tuition paid for attendance at the school if the child is removed from the school.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 14:91.3(A), R.S. 15:587.1(C)(intro para), 587.1(C)(1) and 1110.3(H), R.S. 17:8.7(A), 8.7(B)(intro para), and 8.7(B)(1), 8.9(A)(5), (C), (D)(1), (2), and (3), and (E)(2) and (3), 15(A)(1)(a), (b)(i)(bb) and (cc), and (b)(ii) and (2)(a)(ii)-(v), (D), (E), and (F), 16(A), 24.8(A) and (B)(2), 407.33(5), 407.35(A), 407.42(A)(2) and (B)(1)(b), 407.46(A)(1), 407.71(A), 443(B)(1), 493(C)(1), and 3996(B)(28), R.S. 40:2008.10(A)(3) and 2019(F)(3)(b), R.S. 46:51.2(A)(1)(b), 56(F)(1), (4)(c), (10)(b)(i), and (11), and 1414.1(A), Ch.C. Art. 603(4)(a), (17)(d), and (18), 603.1(B), 610(A), (E)(1) and (2), and (H), 612(A)(3), 615(B)(2), (3), and (5), 615(E)(intro para) and 615(E)(1) and (4)(a) and (F), 616(B), 616(D)(intro para), 616(E) and (H), and 616.1.1(A); adds R.S. 17:8.9(A)(2)(c) and (3)(c) and (E)(4), 15(A)(1)(b)(i)(dd) and (2)(a)(vi) and (G), 407.41, and 3996(B)(82), Ch.C. Art. 603(17)(l)-(o) and 610(I) and C.C. Art. 2315.8)