

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 218 (SB 25)

2025 Regular Session

Edmonds

Existing constitution (Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1)) states that the Central and Zachary community school systems in East Baton Rouge Parish, the municipalities of Baker in East Baton Rouge Parish, Monroe in Ouachita Parish, and Bogalusa in Washington Parish, and no others, are to be regarded and treated as parishes and are to have the authority granted parishes with respect to operating a school system. Further provides that no state dollars shall be used to discriminate or to have the effect of discriminating in providing educational opportunity for all students.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains existing constitution and additionally provides that the St. George community school system in East Baton Rouge Parish shall also be regarded and treated as a parish and shall have the authority granted parishes to operate a school system.

Existing constitution (Article VIII, Section 13(D)(1)) provides all of the following:

- (1) Requires the legislature to appropriate funds to supply free school books and other materials of instruction prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to the children of this state at the elementary and secondary levels.
- (2) Requires BESE to annually develop and adopt a formula which shall be used to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program (MFP) of education in all public elementary and secondary schools as well as to equitably allocate the funds to parish and city school systems. Specifies that the MFP formula shall provide for a contribution by every city and parish school system.
- (3) Establishes the process for consideration and approval of the MFP formula by the legislature.
- (4) Requires annual appropriations to fully fund a legislatively approved MFP formula and permits the governor, in accordance with legislatively specified procedures and with legislative approval, to reduce such appropriations.
- (5) Requires that appropriated funds be equitably allocated to parish and city school systems according to the MFP formula as adopted by BESE and approved by the legislature prior to making the appropriation.
- (6) Requires the use of the last legislatively approved MFP formula whenever the legislature fails to approve the formula most recently adopted by BESE.
- (7) Provides that local funds for the support of elementary and secondary schools shall be derived from the following sources:
 - (a) Requires each parish school board (except in Orleans Parish) and each municipality or city school board actually operating, maintaining, or supporting a separate system of public schools to levy annually an ad valorem maintenance tax not to exceed five mills on the dollar of assessed valuation on property subject to such taxation within the parish or city, respectively.
 - (b) Requires the Orleans Parish School Board to levy annually a tax not to exceed 13 mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation of property within the city of New Orleans assessed for city taxation and to certify the amount of the tax to the city's governing authority. Requires the governing authority to have the tax entered on city tax rolls and requires that the tax be collected in the manner, under the conditions, and with the interest and penalties prescribed by law for city taxes. Specifies that the money thus collected shall be paid daily to the Orleans Parish School Board.
 - (c) Permits any parish, school district, or subschool district, or any municipality or city school board which supports a separate city system of public schools to levy an additional ad valorem tax for a specific purpose of school funding,

when authorized by a majority of the electors voting in the parish, municipality, district, or subdistrict in an election held for that purpose. Requires that the amount, duration, and purpose of the additional ad valorem tax to be in accord with any limitation imposed by the legislature.

Proposed constitutional amendment otherwise retains existing constitution.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on April 18, 2026, in accordance with Act 212.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 13(D)(1))