

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE BILL NO. 35

BY SENATOR DORSEY

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

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Delays implementation of a system to assign performance-based letter grades to public schools and school districts. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:10.1(F)(4) and (5), relative to school and district accountability; to delay implementation of a system to assign performance-based letter grades to public schools and school districts; to provide for a task force; to provide for a written report; to provide for rules; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:10.1(F)(4) and (5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state board

* * *

F. In addition to any other performance-related labels or designations assigned to public schools and school districts pursuant to the school and district accountability system, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other education stakeholders, shall develop a letter grade system reflective of school and district performance that shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

* * *

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this Subsection, no public elementary or secondary school or school district shall be assigned a letter grade based upon student, school, or district performance prior to the 2013-2014 school year.

(5)(a) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this Subsection in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

(b)(i) Prior to adopting such rules, the board shall create a task force composed of parents, teachers, school administrators, and other educational stakeholders to provide advice and input regarding the development of the performance-based letter grade system as provided in this Subsection.

(ii) The board shall submit a written report of the findings and recommendations of the task force to the education committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than December 31, 2012.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become 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 Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Present law provides that in addition to any other performance-related labels or designations assigned to public schools and school districts pursuant to the school and district accountability system, BESE, in consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other education stakeholders, shall develop a letter grade system reflective of school and district performance.

Specifies that the system shall include, as a minimum, the following:

1. Assignment of a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary school and school district that is based upon the current method of determining school and district performance scores. Requires that any school that has been labeled academically unacceptable be assigned a grade of "F".
2. Inclusion of the assigned letter grade in the school report cards compiled by the state

Dept. of Education and distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district performance scores.

3. Creation of an honor roll which recognizes all high-performing schools and high schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average. Provides that the honor roll shall be made public when information relative to school and district performance scores and letter grades are released.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that no public school or school district shall be assigned a letter grade based upon student, school, or district performance prior to the 2013-2014 school year.

Requires BESE to adopt rules to implement such letter grade system in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Requires BESE, prior to adopting such rules, to create a task force composed of parents, teachers, school administrators, and other educational stakeholders to provide advice and input regarding the development of the performance-based letter grade system.

Requires BESE to submit a written report of the findings and recommendations of the task force to the education committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than December 31, 2012.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:10.1(F)(4) and (5))