

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 559

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROSALIND JONES

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

SCHOOLS/BOARDS: Requires public school governing authorities to publish certain information on their websites

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:81(W) and 3996(B)(13), relative to governing authorities of public
3 elementary and secondary schools; to require such governing authorities to publish
4 certain information on their websites; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:81(W) and 3996(B)(13) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §81. General powers of city, parish, and other local public school boards

8 * * *

9 W.(1) Each city, parish, or other local public school board that maintains a
10 website shall publish on it certain information in an easily understandable format.

11 Such information shall include but not be limited to the following:

12 (a) The school board's policies and procedures.

13 (b) Minutes of school board meetings required to be made available to the
14 public pursuant to R.S. 42:20.

15 (c) Directory of schools and contact information.

16 (d) Disciplinary action processes and procedures applicable to students.

(e) School calendars, including the beginning and end of each school year, staff days, conference days, testing days, application-specific dates, report card release dates, early release days, and holidays.

(2) For purposes of this Subsection the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed thereto:

(a) "City, parish, or other local public school board" means the governing authority of any public elementary or secondary school.

(b) "Disciplinary action processes and procedures" means all written disciplinary policies and procedures for students and, by school year 2013, shall also include separate links for each of the following:

(i) All state suspension and expulsion laws applicable to students.

(ii) A disciplinary action timeline, from notice through appeal.

(iii) Explanation of due process rights for both informal and formal hearings and in the case of formal hearings, shall also include a full explanation of the disciplinary process, a complete list of the student's procedural due process rights, the hearing agenda, and the appeal process.

(iv) The final resolution of prior disciplinary actions, redacted of confidential information and organized by the type of disciplinary infringement.

(c) "Policies and procedures" means all formal policies and procedures and, by school year 2014, shall also include summaries thereof with separate links for each of the following:

(i) Student code of conduct.

(ii) Controlled and other prohibited substances or contraband policy.

(iii) Dress code.

(iv) Grade change process.

(v) Harassment or bullying prohibition and prevention procedures.

(vi) Student rights and responsibilities.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions

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

* * *

(13) Publication of certain information on the website of the school governing authority, R.S. 17:81(W).

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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)]

Rosalind Jones

HB No. 559

Abstract: Requires each public school board that maintains a website to publish on it certain information.

Present law provides generally for the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of public school boards. Proposed law additionally requires the governing authority of any public elementary or secondary school, including a charter school, that maintains a website to publish on it certain specified information in an easily understandable format, including the board's policies and procedures and minutes of public board meetings.

(Adds R.S. 17:81(W) and 3996(B)(13))