

New law requires BESE to develop and implement a process to certify foreign language immersion education programs. Provides that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, BESE shall designate any foreign language immersion program that meets the criteria listed below as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program".

- (1) Adherence to state guidelines governing the minimum time of daily instruction in the immersion language.
- (2) High quality immersion language teaching time.
- (3) Protection of the written and oral forms of the immersion language as the exclusive language of communication within immersion teaching time.
- (4) Evidence of immersion language teaching throughout content area teaching time.
- (5) Immersion language teachers who possess native-like fluency in the immersion language.
- (6) Articulated professional development on best practices for immersion teachers, English-speaking team teachers, and school administrators.
- (7) Provision of student remediation, as needed, in the immersion language.
- (8) Articulation, or planned articulation, throughout the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels of education.
- (9) Visibility and recognition of the foreign language immersion program throughout the school.
- (10) Written policies regarding entry into and exit from the foreign language immersion program.

New law provides that notice of receipt of BESE designation as a "Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program" shall be included on the school's annual report compiled by the DOE and in the academic records of each student enrolled in the program.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:273.2)