
DIGEST

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Schroder

HB No. 707

Abstract: Provides relative to the La. Competency-Based Education Program and the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP).

Present law, relative to the La. Competency-Based Education Program (LEAP), provides for certain provisions and terminology with respect to "curriculum standards" and "criterion-referenced tests". Proposed law makes the following changes to present law:

Standards

Present law refers to statewide "curriculum standards". Proposed law changes this terminology to "content standards".

Present law defines "curriculum standards" as required subjects to be taught, curriculum guides which contain grade appropriate skills and competencies, suggested activities and instruction materials, and minimum required time allotments for instruction in all subjects.

Proposed law defines "content standards" as statements that define what a student should know or be able to accomplish at the end of a specific time period or grade level or at the completion of a course. Further provides that "content standards" shall represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the workplace, as determined by content experts, elementary and secondary educators and school leaders, postsecondary education leaders, and business and industry leaders.

Present law provides that no curriculum standards or scores shall exceed any national average standards, scores, or percentile rankings. Proposed law deletes present law.

Testing

Present law refers to "criterion-referenced tests". Proposed law changes this terminology to "standards-based assessments".

Present law provides for criterion-referenced tests in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in grades four and eight and at the high school level. Proposed law instead provides for standards-based assessments in these subjects in grades three through 11, at minimum. Adds that beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the standards-based assessments implemented by BESE in English language arts and mathematics shall be based on nationally recognized content standards that represent the knowledge and skills needed for

students to successfully transition to postsecondary education and the workplace.

Present law provides that LEAP shall include one criterion-referenced test, one national norm-referenced test, or one augmented norm-referenced test, given to students statewide in grades three, five, six, seven, and nine. Requires the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NEAP) to be administered, if available, to at least a sample of fourth and eighth graders. Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law requires the state Dept. of Education to establish the following for certain tests (or certain portions thereof):

- (1) For third and seventh grades: the results as indicative of student proficiency in at least mathematics and reading or language arts.
- (2) For fourth and eighth grades and the secondary level: the level of achievement as definitive of the level of student proficiency in mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies.

Proposed law eliminates requirements relative to third and seventh grades and the secondary level and retains such requirement relative to fourth and eighth grades.

Present law requires BESE to establish the level of proficiency required of fourth and eighth grade students in order to proceed with their schooling without intervention. Proposed law instead requires these students to demonstrate proficiency in order to advance to grades five and nine.

Present law provides for the following requirements:

- (1) Requires the state superintendent of education to submit recommendations to BESE for expanding opportunities for students who fail to achieve the required proficiency levels to be promoted to grades five and nine.
- (2) Requires BESE:
 - (a) To have approved and implemented these recommendations by Jan. 10, 2010.
 - (b) To make information available to the public and House and Senate education committees indicating where a sample of students scoring at the state's proficiency level on the state criterion-referenced tests score on a national norm-referenced test.

Proposed law deletes each of these present law requirements.

(Amends R.S. 17:24.4(A)(1), (2), and (4), (E), (F)(1)(c), (d), and (e), (3)(a) and (b)(ii), and (4)(a), and (G)(4)(a); Repeals R.S. 17:24.4(F)(2))

