
DIGEST

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Edwards

HB No. 343

Abstract: Prohibits public high school students with exceptionalities (except gifted/talented) who are not pursuing a high school diploma from being administered any test pursuant to LEAP or the school accountability program, including the ACT. Provides exceptions and prohibits students, schools, and school systems from being penalized for students not participating in such testing.

Present law (R.S. 17:24.4) provides for the La. Competency-Based Education Program, including the implementation of the La. Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). Requires certain tests to be administered to students at various grade levels and requires students to demonstrate proficiency in order to advance to specified grade levels.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that, notwithstanding any provision of present law or any other law to the contrary, a public high school student with exceptionalities as defined in present law, except a gifted or talented student, who is not pursuing a high school diploma shall not be administered any examination pursuant to present law (LEAP or the La. school and district accountability system), including the ACT, unless the student's Individualized Education Plan provides for it or the student's parent requests it. Prohibits penalizing a student for failure to take an examination pursuant to proposed law. Provides that the resulting absence of test results shall not be factored into or negatively impact the performance score or letter grade assignment of a school or school system, nor shall a school or school system otherwise be penalized, provided that such absence does not violate any federal law or requirement.

(Adds R.S. 17:24.4(K))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Removes limitation that proposed law applies to a student who is pursuing a regular high school diploma, and instead proposed law is applicable to a student pursuing any high school diploma.
2. Relative to the prohibition on penalizing schools and school systems due to students' not participating in testing, provides that such prohibition shall apply only if the absence of students' test results due to such lack of participation does not violate any federal law or requirement.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Limits applicability of proposed law to students with exceptionalities as defined in present law, except students who are gifted or talented.