

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 701

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS

SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Provides relative to student eligibility for vouchers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:4013(2)(b) and 4015(3)(b), relative to the Student
3 Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program; to provide with respect to
4 requirements for student eligibility in the voucher program; to provide with respect
5 to the administration of the voucher program; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:4013(2)(b) and 4015(3)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted to
8 read as follows:

9 §4013. Definitions

10 As used in this Chapter, unless otherwise clearly indicated, the following
11 terms mean:

12 * * *

13 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who resides in Louisiana, is a member
14 of a family with a total income that does not exceed two hundred fifty percent of the
15 current federal poverty guidelines as established by the federal office of management
16 and budget, and who meets any of the following criteria:

17 * * *

18 (b) Was enrolled in a public school in Louisiana on October first and on
19 February first of the most recent school year pursuant to the definition of student

1 membership established by the state board for purposes of the minimum foundation
2 program formula, and such school received a letter grade of "C", "D"; or "F" or any
3 variation thereof, for the most recent year pursuant to the school and district
4 accountability system.

5 * * *

6 §4015. Program administration

7 In administering the program pursuant to this Chapter, the department shall:

8 * * *

9 (3)

10 * * *

11 (b) ~~In the event~~ If there are more eligible students who submit applications
12 than there are available seats at participating schools for any grade, the department
13 shall conduct a random selection process ~~to award scholarships~~ that provides each
14 eligible student an equal opportunity for selection for a scholarship. ~~Only after each~~
15 ~~student who attended or otherwise would be attending a public school that received~~
16 ~~a letter grade of "D" or "F" or any variation thereof has been placed at a participating~~
17 ~~school which the parent or legal guardian indicated as a choice on the eligible~~
18 ~~student's application shall a student who attended a public school that received a~~
19 ~~letter grade of "C" or any variation thereof be entered into the random selection~~
20 ~~process. At such time, each student who attended or otherwise would be attending~~
21 ~~a public school that received a letter grade of "C" or any variation thereof shall be~~
22 ~~provided an equal opportunity for selection into that particular participating school.~~
23 However, the department may give preference to the following:

- 24 (i) Siblings of students already enrolled in the participating school.
- 25 (ii) Students enrolled in the Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development
26 Program at the participating school.
- 27 (iii) Participating students transferring from an ineligible school pursuant to
28 this Section.

1 (iv) Students residing in the parishes as indicated pursuant to the notice of
2 intent, if applicable.

3 * * *

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)]

Edwards

HB No. 701

Abstract: Removes voucher eligibility of students at "C" schools.

Present law establishes a voucher program known as the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

Present law provides that, to be eligible, a student shall reside in La., shall be a member of a family with a total income that does not exceed 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines. Further provides that a student who was enrolled in a public school in La. during the most recent school year, and such school received a letter grade of "C", "D", or "F" or any variation thereof, for the most recent year pursuant to the school and district accountability system, is eligible for the voucher program. Proposed law removes students who were enrolled in public schools that received a letter grade of "C" from eligibility for the voucher program; otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that, if there are more eligible students who submit applications than there are available seats at participating schools for any grade, the department shall conduct a random selection process to award scholarships. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law further provides that only after each student who attended or otherwise would be attending a public school that received a letter grade of "D" or "F" has been placed at a participating school shall a student who attended a public school that received a letter grade of "C" be entered into the random selection process. Proposed law removes provisions for students who attended a public school that received a letter grade of "C" from participation in the random selection process; otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:4013(2)(b) and 4015(3)(b))