

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 968

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

STUDENTS: Provides relative to dropout prevention and recovery

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:221.4(A) and to enact R.S. 17:221.6, relative to the dropout  
3 prevention and recovery program; to provide with respect to the requirements for  
4 such a program; to provide with respect to a development of a written learning plan  
5 for each eligible pupil enrolled in such a program; to provide for definitions; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:221.4(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:221.6 is  
9 hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §221.4. Dropout prevention and recovery program

11 A. This Section shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana School  
12 Dropout Prevention and Recovery Act of ~~2008~~ 2014".

13 \* \* \*

14 §221.6 Dropout recovery programs; written learning plan; requirements; definitions

15 A. Each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high  
16 school pupils may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible pupils.

17 B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe  
18 standards and achievement testing requirements for dropout recovery programs that  
19 attempt to ensure that the programs are compatible with public school education

1        goals and requirements. The standards shall require dropout recovery programs to  
2        do all of the following:

3                (1) Provide curriculum aligned to the academic standards adopted by the  
4        State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The curriculum may be  
5        delivered online. A provider of Louisiana online instruction may not also operate a  
6        dropout recovery program pursuant to this Section.

7                (2) Provide standardized tests required by federal and state law.

8                (3) Make available appropriate and sufficient supports for pupils, including  
9        tutoring, career counseling, and college counseling.

10               (4) Comply with federal and state laws governing pupils with disabilities.

11               (5) Meet state requirements for high school graduation.

12               C. Each eligible pupil enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have a  
13        written learning plan developed by the pupil's assigned mentor. The written learning  
14        plan shall include the following elements:

15               (1) The start date and anticipated end date of the plan.

16               (2) Courses to be completed by the pupil during the academic year.

17               (3) Whether courses will be taken sequentially or concurrently.

18               (4) State competency exams to be taken, as necessary.

19               (5) Expectations for satisfactory monthly progress.

20               (6) Expectations for contact with the pupil's assigned mentor.

21               D. The monthly participation in a dropout recovery program shall be  
22        recorded on or before the tenth school day of each month and shall be reported to the  
23        Department of Education. Monthly participation calculations shall include:

24               (1) Newly enrolled pupils who have a written learning plan on file on or  
25        before the first school day of the previous month.

26               (2) Pupils who met the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress in the  
27        previous month.

1           (3) Pupils who did not meet the expectations for satisfactory monthly  
2           progress in the previous month but did meet the expectations in the month before the  
3           previous month.

4           (4) Pupils who met expectations for program reentry in the revised written  
5           learning plan in the previous month.

6           E. For pupils participating in a dropout recovery program, an eligible pupil  
7           shall be counted as being in attendance in the school's average daily attendance  
8           calculations if the pupil meets one of the following conditions:

9           (1) Is in the first month of enrollment in the program and completes the  
10          program orientation during that month.

11          (2) Is enrolled in teacher-facilitated courses and meets the expectations for  
12          satisfactory monthly progress for the current or previous month. A pupil who does  
13          not meet expectations for monthly progress for three or more consecutive months  
14          shall not be reported as being in attendance until the pupil meets the expectations for  
15          program reentry.

16          (3) Meets the expectations for program reentry in the revised written learning  
17          plan.

18          F. The average daily membership for pupils enrolled in a dropout recovery  
19          program shall equal the average daily attendance of the pupils.

20          G. School districts and charter schools shall be responsible for tuition charges  
21          and fees related to pupil participation in a dropout recovery program, including  
22          course materials and access to technology for use with online courses.

23          H. School districts and charter schools may contract with an educational  
24          management organization to provide a dropout recovery program. If contracting with  
25          an educational management organization, the school district or charter school shall  
26          ensure that all of the following requirements are met:

27          (1) The educational management organization is accredited by a regional  
28          accrediting body.

1           (2) Teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a  
2           current teaching license from any state, and teachers of core subjects are highly  
3           qualified in the subjects to which they are assigned.

4           I. Dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative schools.

5           J. Entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may  
6           conduct outreach to encourage pupils who are not currently enrolled in a school  
7           district or charter school in this state to return to school. Entities that are contracted  
8           to provide dropout recovery programs shall not conduct advertising or marketing  
9           campaigns directed at pupils who are currently enrolled in a school district or charter  
10          school, or undertake any other activity that encourages pupils who are currently  
11          enrolled in a school district or charter school to stop attending school in order to  
12          qualify for a dropout recovery program.

13          K. For the purposes of this Section:

14          (1) "Eligible pupil" means a pupil who, if enrolled, would be eligible for  
15          placement in an alternative school but who is not currently enrolled in a school  
16          district or charter school and who has been withdrawn from a school district or  
17          charter school for at least thirty days, unless the district determines that the student  
18          is unable to participate in other district programs.

19          (2) "Satisfactory monthly progress" means an amount of progress that is  
20          measurable on a monthly basis and that, if continued for a full twelve months, would  
21          result in the same amount of academic credit being awarded to the pupil as would be  
22          awarded to a pupil in a traditional education program who completes a full school  
23          year. Satisfactory monthly progress may include a lesser required amount of progress  
24          for the first two months that a pupil participates in the program.

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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)]

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Leger

HB No. 968

**Abstract:** Provides with respect to the dropout prevention and recovery program.

Proposed law provides that each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school pupils may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible pupils. Further provides that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) shall prescribe standards and achievement testing requirements for dropout recovery programs that attempt to ensure that the programs are compatible with public school education goals and requirements.

Proposed law provides that the standards shall require dropout recovery programs to do all of the following:

- (1) Provide curriculum aligned to the academic standards adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).
- (2) Provide standardized tests required by federal and state law.
- (3) Make available appropriate and sufficient supports for pupils, including tutoring, career counseling and college counseling.
- (4) Comply with federal and state laws governing pupils with disabilities.
- (5) Meet state requirements for high school graduation.

Proposed law provides that each eligible pupil enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have a written learning plan developed by the pupil's assigned mentor. The written learning plan shall include the following elements:

- (1) The start date and anticipated end date of the plan.
- (2) Courses to be completed by the pupil during the academic year.
- (3) Whether courses will be taken sequentially or concurrently.
- (4) State competency exams to be taken, as necessary.
- (5) Expectations for satisfactory monthly progress.
- (6) Expectations for contact with the pupil's assigned mentor.

Proposed law provides that the monthly participation in a dropout recovery program shall be recorded on or before the tenth school day of each month and shall be reported to the department of education. Monthly participation calculations shall include:

- (1) Newly enrolled pupils who have a written learning plan on file on or before the first school day of the previous month.
- (2) Pupils who met the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress in the previous month.

- (3) Pupils who did not meet the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress in the previous month but did meet the expectations in the month before the previous month.
- (4) Pupils who met expectations for program reentry in the revised written learning plan in the previous month.

Proposed law provides that, because dropout recovery pupils are not expected to regularly attend classes at the district facilities, standard procedures for recording pupil attendance cannot be effectively applied to those students. For pupils participating in a dropout recovery program, an eligible pupil shall be counted as being in attendance in the school's average daily attendance calculations pursuant to subsection F of this section if the pupil meets one of the following conditions:

- (1) Is in the first month of enrollment in the program and completes the program orientation during that month.
- (2) Is enrolled in teacher-facilitated courses and meets the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress for the current or previous month.
- (3) Meets the expectations for program reentry in the revised written learning plan.

Proposed law provides that the average daily membership for pupils enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall equal the average daily attendance of the pupils. Further provides that school districts and charter schools shall be responsible for tuition charges and fees related to pupil participation in a dropout recovery program, including course materials and access to technology for use with online courses.

Proposed law provides that school districts and charter schools may contract with an educational management organization to provide a dropout recovery program. If contracting with an educational management organization, the school district or charter school shall ensure that all of the following requirements are met:

- (1) The educational management organization is accredited by a regional accrediting body.
- (2) Teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a current teaching license from any state, and teachers of core subjects are highly qualified in the subjects to which they are assigned.

Proposed law provides that dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative schools. Further provides that entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may conduct outreach to encourage pupils who are not currently enrolled in a school district or charter school in this state to return to school. Entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs shall not conduct advertising or marketing campaigns directed at pupils who are currently enrolled in a school district or charter school, or undertake any other activity that encourages pupils who are currently enrolled in a school district or charter school to stop attending school in order to qualify for a dropout recovery program.

(Amends R.S. 17:221.4(A); Adds R.S. 17:221.6)