

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 an individual graduation
5 plan for each eligible student enrolled in such a program; to provide for definitions;
6 and to 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; individual graduation plan; requirements;
15 definitions

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

18 B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall prescribe
19 standards and achievement testing requirements for dropout recovery programs that

1 attempt to ensure that the programs are compatible with public school education
2 goals and requirements.

3 C. The dropout recovery program shall do the following:

4 (1) Make available appropriate and sufficient supports for students, including
5 tutoring, career counseling, and college counseling.

6 (2) Comply with federal and state laws governing students with disabilities.

7 (3) Meet state requirements for high school graduation.

8 D. Each eligible student enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have
9 an individual graduation plan developed by the student's assigned academic coach.

10 The plan shall include the following elements:

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

12 (2) Courses to be completed by the student during the academic year.

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

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

15 (5) Expectations for satisfactory monthly progress.

16 (6) Expectations for contact with the student's assigned academic coach.

17 E. The monthly participation in a dropout recovery program shall be reported
18 for funding purposes to the state Department of Education on or before the tenth
19 school day of the following month. Monthly participation calculations shall include:

20 (1) Newly enrolled students who have an individual graduation plan on file
21 on or before the first school day of the month.

22 (2) Students who met the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress for
23 the month.

24 (3) Students who did not meet the expectations for satisfactory monthly
25 progress for the month but did meet the expectations one of the two previous months.

26 (4) Students who met expectations for program reentry in the revised
27 individual graduation plan in the previous month.

28 F. School districts and charter schools may contract with an educational
29 management organization to provide a dropout recovery program. If contracting

1 with an educational management organization, the school district or charter school
2 shall ensure that all of the following requirements are met:

3 (1) The educational management organization is accredited by a regional
4 accrediting body.

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

8 G. Dropout recovery programs shall be classified as alternative programs.

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

17 I. For the purposes of this Section:

18 (1) "Eligible student" means a student who is not enrolled in a school district
19 or charter school and who has been withdrawn from a school district or charter
20 school for at least thirty days, unless a school administrator determines that the
21 student is unable to participate in other district programs.

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

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)]

Leger

HB No. 968

Abstract: Provides with respect to dropout recovery programs.

Proposed law provides that each school district and charter school that provides instruction to high school students may offer a dropout recovery program for eligible students. Provides that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education 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.

Provides that the dropout recovery programs shall make available appropriate and sufficient supports for students, including tutoring, career counseling and college counseling, comply with federal and state laws governing students with disabilities, and meet state requirements for high school graduation.

Provides that each eligible student enrolled in a dropout recovery program shall have an individual graduation plan developed by the student's assigned academic coach. Specifies certain elements to be included in the plan.

Provides that the monthly participation in a dropout recovery program shall be reported for funding purposes to the state Dept. of Education on or before the 10th day of the following month. Requires that monthly participation calculations shall include specified components.

Authorizes school districts and charter schools to contract with an educational management organization to provide a dropout recovery program and if so, shall ensure that the educational management organization is accredited by a regional accrediting body and that teachers provided by the educational management organization hold a current teaching license and that teachers of core subjects are highly qualified in those subjects.

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

Defines "eligible student" and "satisfactory monthly progress" for purposes of proposed law.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Deletes requirement that dropout recovery programs provide curriculum aligned to standards adopted by BESE and the authorization for the curriculum to be delivered online.

2. Deletes requirement that dropout recovery programs provide standardized tests required by state and federal law.
3. Requires students in dropout recovery programs to have an individual graduation plan instead of a written learning plan and requires that such plan be developed by the student's assigned academic coach instead of assigned mentor.
4. Requires that monthly participation in a dropout recovery program be reported for funding purposes to the state Dept. of Education on or before the 10th day of the following month instead of being recorded on or before the 10th day of each month and reported to the department.
5. Deletes provisions with regard to recording and calculating student attendance for students participating in dropout recovery programs.
6. Deletes requirement that school districts and charter schools are responsible for tuition and fees for students participating in dropout recovery programs.
7. Provides that dropout recovery programs are classified as alternative programs instead of alternative schools.
8. Provides for determinations made by school administrators instead of school districts with regard to student eligibility for participation in a dropout recovery program.