
DIGEST

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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.