

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 968

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

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's prescribed  
19 standards and achievement testing requirements shall apply to dropout recovery  
20 programs.

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

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

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

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

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

4                   The plan shall include the following elements:

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

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

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

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

9                   (5) Expectations for satisfactory monthly progress.

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

11                  E. A student enrolled in a dropout recovery program pursuant to this Section  
12                  shall be included in the student enrollment count for the school or school system  
13                  offering the program. Each school and school system shall report the following  
14                  information to the state Department of Education on a monthly basis:

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

17                  (2) Students who met the expectations for satisfactory monthly progress for  
18                  the month.

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

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

23                  F. School districts and charter schools may contract with an educational  
24                  management organization to provide a dropout recovery program. If contracting  
25                  with an educational management organization, the school district or charter school  
26                  shall 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           (3) The educational management organization has provided one or more  
5           dropout recovery programs for at least two years prior to providing a program  
6           pursuant to this Section.

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

8           H. Entities that are contracted to provide dropout recovery programs may  
9           conduct outreach to encourage students who are not enrolled in a school district or  
10          charter school in this state to return to school. Entities that are contracted to provide  
11          dropout recovery programs shall not conduct advertising or marketing campaigns  
12          directed at students who are currently enrolled in a school district or charter school,  
13          or undertake any other activity that encourages students who are enrolled in a school  
14          district or charter school to stop attending school in order to qualify for a dropout  
15          recovery program. All contracts entered into by a city, parish, or other local public  
16          school board for the provision of student dropout recovery programs shall include  
17          requirements for the protection of all personally identifiable student information that  
18          shall comply with all applicable state and federal law and regulations.

19          I. For the purposes of this Section:

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

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

1                    (3) "Academic coach" is an adult who assists students in selecting courses  
2                    needed to meet graduation requirements, monitors student pace and progress through  
3                    the program, and conducts regular pace and progress interventions.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_