

ACT No. 530

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.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____