
DIGEST

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HB 543 Original

2016 Regular Session

Hoffmann

Abstract: Provides that the value-added model (VAM) used to evaluate teachers and administrators shall be optional instead of required for local public school boards. Permits a local board to use a modified model.

Present law relative to teacher evaluations requires city, parish, and other local public school boards to use a value-added assessment model as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for evaluating teachers and administrators. Requires that 50% of such evaluations shall be based on evidence of growth in student achievement using the model for grade levels and subjects for which value-added data is available. For grade levels and subjects for which value-added data is not available and for personnel for whom value-added data is not available, provides that BESE shall establish measures of student growth. Further requires that the model shall take into account important student factors, including but not limited to special education, eligibility for free or reduced price meals, student attendance, and student discipline. Prohibits the value-added model and the measures of student growth for grade levels and subjects for which value-added data are not available from including a test score or data of a student who has 10 or more unexcused absences in any school semester in that year. Provides that BESE shall adopt a policy to invalidate such student growth data for any teacher for any school year in which there is a natural disaster or any other unexpected event that results in the temporary closure of the school. Proposed law retains present law but makes the use of the model optional instead of mandatory for local boards. Permits a local board to choose to use the model in accordance with present law and state board rules and regulations or to modify the model for use as it determines necessary and appropriate.

(Amends R.S. 17:3902(B)(5))