

Last Wednesday, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a number of policy revisions and Department recommendations. A summary of board actions that directly impact the activities of local education agencies are listed below.

All policy bulletins, with the exception of emergency rules, must run in the Louisiana Register as a Notice of Intent for 90 days and complete the rulemaking process before becoming rule and appearing in the bulletins on the BESE website. For more information or questions on any of these policy changes, please contact [Bridget Devlin](#).

Revisions to Bulletin 746, Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, to include two new Praxis Elementary Content exams. Praxis exams are regenerated on a five-year cycle or on as-needed basis. Two elementary exam options will replace the current Elementary Content Knowledge exam (5014) being phased out:

- Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) - consists of four course sub-tests in English language arts/reading, math, science and social studies scored separately
- Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) – one test with four core subjects embedded

Both exams will be adopted simultaneously with a two-year window of time to transition to the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) exam. This will provide time to program providers for preparation for full implementation, and time to the LDE for the collection of data relative to passage rates.

[Click here](#) to view the complete set of revisions to Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*.

Revisions to Bulletin 111, The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*, related to the process for calculating the graduation index. The revisions remove outdated tables, clarify current graduation index policies related to Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate, and update and clarify the timeline for when Industry-Based Certifications (IBC) that have not been approved by the Workforce Investment Council (WIC) will be included in accountability.

[Click here](#) to view the complete set of revisions to Bulletin 111, *The Louisiana School, District, and State Accountability System*.

Approval of Disciplinary Hearing Officers (DHOs)

[Act 570 of the 2014 Legislative Session](#) requires the Board to establish a Disciplinary Hearing Officer (DHO) list to conduct review hearings of tenured teachers who appeal a district superintendent's disciplinary actions. District superintendents may randomly select a DHO from the BESE approved list in the event that the local school board does not maintain a list of approved hearing officers in accordance with the requirements of the law. The Board approved the state list of DHO candidates at last week's meeting.

[Click here](#) to view the list of DHOs approved by the Board.

TOPS-Tech Early Start Training Providers and Course Providers for the Course Choice Program

The Board approved TOPS-Tech Early Start training program providers for the 2014-15 academic year in accordance with [Act 737](#) of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session. Act 737 provides for payment of TOPS-Tech Early Start Awards to students enrolled in an eligible program of study, or a training program provider, and requires BESE to determine the process and training program provider(s) approved for each academic year.

[Click here](#) to view the list of approved TOPS-Tech Early Start training program providers.

The Board approved the authorization of new course providers for the Course Choice Program for School Year 2015-2016.

[Click here](#) for the list of course provider applicants that met the criteria and standards required for each of the three evaluation phases (i.e., Application Review, Interview, and Independent Expert Panel Review).

Revisions to Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, to include standards for TOPS Honors courses. [Act 733](#) (2014) added Honors courses to the list of courses that shall utilize a five-point scale for determining a TOPS GPA as approved by the Board of Regents and BESE beginning with students graduating in 2017-2018.

[Click here](#) to view the complete set of revisions to Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*.

Revisions to Bulletin 1530, Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities

The Board approved revisions to Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*, to amend the Louisiana Alternate Assessment, Level 1 (LAA 1) participation criteria for students who have completed fifth grade.

[Click here](#) to view the complete set of revisions to Bulletin 1530, *Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*.

Revisions to Bulletin 137, Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations

The Board approved Bulletin 137, *Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*, in accordance of [Act 838](#) of the 2014 Regular Legislative Session, which transfers licensing authority from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE). The law requires BESE to establish statewide minimum standards for the health, safety and well-being of children in early learning centers, ensure maintenance of these standards, and regulate conditions in early learning centers through a program of licensing administered by the LDE.

[Click here](#) to view Bulletin 137, *Louisiana Early Learning Center Licensing Regulations*.