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

Any bulletin revisions, 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 Ryan Gremillion.

**Revisions to Bulletin 118, Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices, related to parent access to student assessments**

House Resolution 195 of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session requested that the Board promulgate rules relative to parental access to and review of student assessments. In response to HR 195, the Board approved revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*, that establish a process for student assessment(s) to be viewed by the parent or legal custodian of a student beginning with the assessments administered to students during the 2015-2016 school year.

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/A5PRQP6F213E/%24file/AGII_5.1_B118_Jan_2016.pdf) to view the approved revisions to Bulletin 118, *Statewide Assessment Standards and Practices*.

**Approval of course providers for the Course Choice Program for 2016-2017**

In accordance with state law, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Course Choice Program. The 2015-2016 RFA process represents a fourth call for course providers. This year, the LDE implemented a “rolling applications” process for course providers. This new process enables the LDE to accept Course Choice course provider applications throughout the year.

At last week’s meeting, the LDE recommended nine course provider applicants for Board approval based on successful completion of the three specified Course Choice evaluation phases (i.e., Application, Interview, and Independent Panel Review).

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/A5PRKE6E5B02/%24file/AGII_2.1_Course_Choice_Jan_2016.pdf) to view a description of the course provider applicants approved by the Board at last week’s meeting.

**Approval of Allocations**

The Board approved ten allocations of funding to local districts at last week’s meeting including: Believe and Prepare – Early Childhood awards, Math Content Institute funding, College and Career Readiness support funds, funding for District Leadership Development, and Youth Suicide Prevention funding.

[Click here](https://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/files/A5RVF28076BA/%24file/AF_5.2_January_Chart_Competitive_and_Other.pdf) to view the list of allocations approved at last week’s meeting.

**Approval of Reports in Response to Resolutions of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session**

The Board approved eight reports in response to study resolutions from 2015 Regular Legislative Session. The reports cover topics such as early childhood funding, educator preparation programs, and high school graduation rates for special education students.

[Click here](http://www.boarddocs.com/la/bese/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A59T7G6EC2E6) to view the reports approved by the Board.

**Approval of Type 2 Charter School Applications**

At last week’s meeting, the [Board approved](http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/links-for-newsletters/greater-grace_january-2016-bese.pdf?sfvrsn=2) a plan submitted by Greater Grace Charter Academy to launch one Type 2 charter school serving grades K-8 in St. James Parish no earlier than fall 2016.